FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

25 NOVEMBER 1983

PLO Affairs

Prisoner Exchange — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat released 6 Israeli prisoners detained by loyalists since the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in exchange for Israel's releasing 4,800 Palestinians and Lebanese whom it has been holding, primarily in the Ansar detention camp in southern Lebanon, Jerusalem radio reported. The Israelis, who had been held in Tripoli, returned to Israel aboard an Israeli missile boat, while 3,600 of the Palestinians and Lebanese were allowed to return to their homes in southern Lebanon. Some 1,100 others were sent by air to Algiers, according to WAKH and Algiers radio. In messages reported by Jerusalem and Paris radios, 'Arafat and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir expressed their thanks to the French Government for its assistance.

'Arafat told a news conference reported by Beirut radio that he is "very pleased," adding, however, that "there is no relationship" between the prisoner release and diplomatic efforts to end the seige of his positions in Tripoli. He also told a Radio Monte Carlo interviewer that the release of the two Israelis still held by the PFLP-General Command would be considered in the "next phase" of negotiations, adding that PFLP-GC leader Ahmad Jibril had caused the delay in the release of the Palestinians and Lebanese held by Israel. The PFLP-GC official spokesman, in a statement broadcast by Turbul voice of the Palestinian Revolution radio, said that 'Arafat's agreement constitutes a "flagrant departure" from PLO Executive Committee decisions and that 'Arafat made the agreement to "protect himself and ensure his departure from Tripoli." Similarly, the secretary general of the General Command expressed "astonishment" at the agreement, stating that on 'Arafat's instructions the negotiator with the Israelis had worked only for "a certain Palestinian side" and that the PFLP-GC will continue to negotiate for the release of Palestinians still held by the Israelis, SANA disclosed.

Tripoli Cease-Fire, Negotiations — Following 'Arafat's 23 November agreement to a formal cease-fire in Tripoli, Palestinian opposition leaders agreed to maintain a cease-fire indefinitely, as long as 'Arafat's forces do not break the agreement, the Voice of Palestinian Revolution announced. The dissidents' agreement came after several days of negotiations in Syria, which were described by Damascus radio, between Fatah and 'Arafat loyalists led by Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan, Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, dissidents led by Nimr Salih and Samih Abu Kuwayk, PNC Chairman Khalid al-Fahum, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, and a four-man delegation from the Nonaligned Movement. The nonaligned delegation departed Damascus, according to Damascus television, but KUNA noted that the Yugoslav and Senegalese representatives had been left behind. The Saudi foreign minister also remained in Damascus, "as though he was awaiting some kind of an answer," Radio Monte Carlo stated.

Delegation in USSR — PLO Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko discussed the latest Palestinian developments, according to San'a' Voice of Palestine radio and TASS. The Soviet foreign minister expressed "deep concern" at the "senseless and unnatural fratricidal clashes" between Palestinian factions. Meanwhile, in Damascus the PLO Executive Committee secretary stated that Qaddumi's delegation "represents only itself and not the PLO Executive Committee," Turbul Voice of the Palestinian Revolution reported.

Lebanon

Political Developments — The Lebanese Cabinet decided to ask all armed Palestinian forces to leave Tripoli and Lebanon, Beirut radio announced. While noting that the Lebanese Government has done the same thing in the past, 'Arafat said he had not yet received notification of the government's decision, KUNA reported. Official Lebanese sources cited by Beirut radio confirmed the severance of relations with Iran and the freezing of relations with Libya, explaining that the actions were taken because Iran had failed to confirm the Lebanese Government's appointment of an ambassador and had ignored its request that the two countries end the "illegal presence of forces" from their countries in Lebanon.

Military Developments — U.S. Marines were put on alert on 23 November in response to a warning of a possible booby-trapped car, Beirut radio reported. A French soldier was wounded when a bomb was thrown at his patrol, according to the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio. In the mountain region, on 23 November Lebanese Army positions in and around Suq al-Gharb came under artillery bombardment of such intensity that it was mistaken for an airstrike nearby, Beirut radio reported. Exchanges of fire continued in the area throughout 24 November, the radio added.

Iran-Iraq War

In a statement reported by Baghdad radio, the commander of naval and coastal defense forces stated that recent Iraqi naval and air victories refuted Iranian "lies and deceptions regarding the alleged safe passage" in the northeastern Gulf and warned "companies and commercial ships" against entering the area because "Iraqi naval forces and mines will destroy any ship that may enter the area."

Jordan-Iraq Relations

Jordan's King Husayn arrived in Iraq on 23 November and returned to Amman the following day after holding talks with President Saddam Husayn on the Palestinian situation, the Iran-Iraq war, and Jordanian-Iraqi relations, INA and Amman radio reported.

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Prisoner Exchange With Israel Arranged

San'a' VOP Report

GF241656 San'a' Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] Following hard and lengthy negotiations which were supervised by the International Red Cross, an exchange of prisoners of war between the PLO and the Zionist enemy authorities took place today.

In accordance with this accord, 4,500 Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners of war left Ansar camp, among whom there were 100 detainees from the occupied homeland. They were released in return for releasing a number of the Zionist prisoners of war who were being detained by the PLO.

'Arafat on POW Exchange

JN241843 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Antoine Nawfal, Radio Monte Carlo's news director, on 24 November — recorded]

[Text] [Nawfal] What is your impression, Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], following the exchange of prisoners, an operation that is considered by more than one observer as a personal victory for you while besieged in the city of Tripoli?

['Arafat] Even in my siege, my mind is peaceful when I see 6,000 Lebanese and Palestinian families receiving today their sons who are back from detention. I tell every family, whether Lebanese or Palestinian, that despite all the plots and plotters, I have always felt that the willpower of the revolution is bound to triumph. Events have proved that the willpower of the revolution stems from God's will. Therefore, I tell them all: We have taken this step in this major operation. Our next operation, which will be bigger than this, will be our march to Jerusalem, God willing.

[Nawfal] Abu 'Ammar, there are still some Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons. Are any negotiations taking place to release them, or does the exchange of prisoners stop at this point?

['Arafat] No, this is a three-phase operation. The first phase is the present one. The second affects the two prisoners detained by Ahmad Jibril's group. It was Jibril who caused the delay of the release of our Lebanese and Palestinian youths and heroes. The next phase will consider the case of these two prisoners. The Israelis are also taking about a (?third) prisoner. There is also the subject of the [Al-Awwali] bridge. These are the three phases which we are dealing with. We have undertaken the first phase in order bring about the closure of the Ansar camp and help alleviate the sufferings of the heroes who were forcibly detained by Israel, whether they were fighters, civilians, or just Lebanese or Palestinian farmers. Some of the detainees were Egyptian workers. Some Syrian workers were also detained. Some 136 Syrians were detained in Ansar camp. They were workers in southern Lebanon.

[Nawfal] Abu 'Ammar, do you have information that Ansar camp is finally closed now and that there is not a single detainee there?

['Arafat] We agreed with Israel, via the International Red Cross [IRC] — as you know, the talks were not direct but through the IRC ....

[Nawfal interrupts] Abu 'Ammar, is Ansar camp at this moment completely empty of detainees?

['Arafat] The camp is empty of all detainees and has been closed according to the agreement.

[Nawfal] What is the latest information on the subejct of the bridge, Abu 'Ammar?

['Arafat] I prefer not to talk on this subject over the radio, because a delegation is holding negotiations in Geneva on this subject with Israel via the IRC.

[Nawfal] Since we are on the subject of negotiations, what is the latest on the negotiations currently taking place in Damascus?

['Arafat] My information says that Prince Sa'ud, Khaddam, and my Fatah Central Committee members Khalid al-Hasan and Rafiq an-Natshah have held a meeting. They have discussed certain points. They will hold another meeting tonight or tomorrow. God willing, we will be able to spare Arab Muslim Tripoli of a new blow in addition to the other blows it has suffered.

[Nawfal] Does the information which you have received from Damascus call for optimism?

['Arafat] You know that I am always optimistic. I am optimistic even while under shelling or in battles. You know me, Antoine. I am always optimistic.

[Nawfal] Can you tell us if new conditions have been set?

['Arafat] I hope that my brothers in Damascus will not set new conditions. It is a shame for Arabs to set conditions for one another. If we are indeed Arabs, then we must solve our issues within our Arab community.

[Nawfal] Then I understand from you, Abu 'Ammar, that we have to wait for the next 24 hours to know the results of the current talks?

['Arafat] God willing, we hope all will be well. This is what we are trying to achieve through the current efforts. Last night, or rather at dawn today, I had a long talk with King Fahd. I found him most sympathetic with the people of this steadfast city, with this Arab Muslim city. He promised that everything will be all right. He said that he will do his best. I also contacted my Algerian brothers to thank them for receiving the large numbers of prisoners, who had no right to remain on Lebanese territory. Those who went to Algeria are persons who had no legal right to remain in Lebanon. I thanked them for their assistance. I also sent a message to President Mitterrand a short while ago

thanking him in my name and on behalf of the PLO Executive Committee and the Palestinian people for all the services he rendered. I also thanked the IRC. I am also contacting my Arab brothers to help find a solution to spare the city of Tripoli a possible massacre.

[Nawfal] Thank you, Abu 'Ammar.

'Arafat, Jibril Comments

NC242306 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat described the process between the Fatah organization and Israel as a miracle at a time when the loyalist forces are being besieged. At a news conference he held in Tripoli last night [24 November], 'Arafat said: Under these bad circumstances which we and all those around me are living, we were interested in saving the POW's. He said that he is very pleased and that the Palestinians who arrived in Algeria will be guests in that country until it is decided where they can be used. He said there is no relationship between the process of exchanging the prisoners and the current diplomatic efforts to end the siege on Tripoli.

Ahmad Jibril, whose organization is holding two Israeli prisoners, said that this matter is under consideration. He said that 300 of his men are prisoners in the Ansar camp and that he does not believe Israel has released them. He believes that the United States and France exerted pressure on Israel to boost 'Arafat's morale at this time to save him from a political fall.

Jibril said that [former] Prime Minister al-Huss told him in the past few days that 'Arafat has agreed to leave Lebanon. He added that 'Arafat will leave for Algeria within 24 hours to welcome the Palestinians released from the Ansar camp.

'Arafat, however, nervously responded to Jibril's expectations by saying to reporters: When I decide to leave, I will let you know.

PFLP-GC Scores Exchange

NC241630 Turbul Lebanon Voice of Palestinian Revolution in Arabic 1542 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Statement by Qadri Shururu, secretary of Political Bureau and official spokesman of PFLP-GC — read by announcer]

[Text] 'Arafat today carried out a mean deal by delivering Zionist prisoners in return for a limited number of our prisoner comrades. This agreement constitutes a flagrant departure from the decisions of the Executive Committee which had set up a special committee, made up of Brothers 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, Jamal as-Surani, and Ahmad al-Yamani. This committee has followed up its contacts with the International Red Cross. The committee held intensive negotaitions in Geneva last month.

However, to protect himself, and to be able to leave Tripoli, 'Arafat made this deal bypassing the International Red Cross, the PLO Executive Committee, and its subcommittee. He did so to protect himself and to ensure his departure from Tripoli. To achieve this purpose, he relinquished the conditions which the Executive Committee had set in return for exchanging eight prisoners. These conditions are:

1. To free all detainees in Ansar camp.

2. To free 1,000 Palestinian fighters detained in enemy prisons in the occupied territory.

3. To hand over the archives of the [Palestine] Research Center.

However, 'Arafat was satisfied with the release of 100 prisoners in the occupied teritory and 1,000 fedayeen detainees in Ansar camp and 4,000 Lebanese. The French and Zionist intelligence services contributed to this deal. Two Zionist intelligence officers with the rank of lieutenant colonel accompanied by French intelligence officers arrived on Al-Aranib Island near Tripoli to conclude this deal.

We in the PFLP-GC reaffirm our adherence to the decisions of the subcommittee of the PLO Executive Committee and hold 'Arafat personally responsible for the hundreds of fighters who are still in the enemy prisons in the occupied territory.

The revolution will march until the territory and people are liberated.

PFLP-GC's Talal Naji Comment

JN241847 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] The exchange of prisoners between the Fatah movement and Israel did not please the PFLP-GC. Talal Naji, assistant secretary general of the PFLP-GC, has declared that the prisoner exchange has taken place unilaterally and in an irresponsible way, and has harmed many fighters who are still detained in Israel's prisons.

It is understood that the PFLP-GC detains two Israeli prisoners. Talal Naji congratulated the detainees on their release and said that his group was surprised by the agreement which took place between Fatah and Israel through the International Red Cross. He said that his group is demanding the release of 2,250 Palestinian strugglers in Israeli prisons and that his group will continue negotiations for their release.

WAFA on Released Detainees

GF250523 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] Tunis, 24 Nov (WAKH) — The number of detainees released by the Israeli occupation authorities today within the framework of the exchange of prisoners of war under the International Red Cross Organization auspices totalled 4,800. WAFA reported tonight that 4,700 of these detainees were in the Ansar camp in southern Lebanon. Of these, 3,600 have returned to their families in the cities and villages in southern Lebanon while 1,100 others, who are living outside Lebanon, have been sent to Algiers on board French airliners.

WAFA said that 65 detainees were under long-term sentences in Israeli prisons on charges of carrying out military activities against the Zionist entity. Among these is Ziyad Abu 'Ayn, whom U.S. authorities handed over to Israel last year. There are also 5 women strugglers and 35 detainees from Fatah who were captured last month while they were setting out from Cyprus to Tripoli.

Detainees' Arrival in Sidon

NC240944 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Following long and indirect negotiations between Israel and the PLO, during which France and the International Red Cross played a major role, it was decided that Israel will release about 4,500 Palestinian and Lebanese detainees in return for the release of 6 Israelis held by the 'Arafat forces.

The first group of Lebanese and Palestinian detainees who were held in Ansar arrived in Sidon at 0900 today. Hundreds of detainees' families and relatives awaited their arrival amid strict security measures. It has been learned that about 1,000 detainees were released today. The Palestinians were moved to Algeria. Some of the detainees said they were told yesterday that they would be released today.

There is information that all the Ansar detainees, numbering 5,600 Lebanese and Palestinians, will be released. Some say that the entire Ansar camp will be vacated soon.

300 Palestinians in Algiers

NC241102 Paris AFP in English 1051 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] Algiers, Nov 24 (AFP) — The first of three Air France jets bringing more than 1,000 Palestinian prisoners from Israel and Lebanon arrived here today, with 300 Palestinians aboard. They were welcomed by Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], the second-ranking official in the loyalist facation of the Palestine Liberation Organization after Yasir 'Arafat.

The Palestinians were released earlier today, as part of a trade that is expected to involve about 5,000 Palestinian and Lebanese detainees in Israel and in the southern Lebanese camp of Ansar. In exchange, the PLO released six Israeli soldiers, who were reported to be en route to Tel Aviv today.

Materials on Negotiations for Tripoli Cease-Fire

24 Nov Damascus Contacts

JN241301 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1215 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Telephone dispatch from Louis Faris, Radio Monte Carlo correspondent in Damascus, on 24 November — live or recorded]

[Text] Talks and contacts on the situation in Tripoli continued in the Syrian capital this morning. Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam held further talks today with Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. Khalid al-Hasan and Rafiq an-Natshah, members of the Fatah Central Committee — 'Arafat's wing — joined the meeting later. Minister Khaddam then received the Nonaligned Movement's delegation, which consists of the Indian, Cuban, and Yugoslav foreign ministers as well as a Senegalese representative, for the same purpose.

Following the meeting, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal expressed cautious optimism when he told journalists that an agreement was reached on the method of action and on the principles for preventing any action that could lead to the destruction of Tripoli. He also announced that agreement was reached on the principles by which fratricide can be ended and an appropriate atmosphere can be created in order to reach a political settlement for the conflict. The Saudi minister said verbatim: We are now talking about the practical steps in this direction. However, he declined to answer a question on whether agreement was reached concerning the departure of 'Arafat and the fighters from Tripoli. He also declined to answer any other question.

Dissident Fatah sources said that they do not currently have any specific stands on the two-point agreement that was declared yesterday pending [the announcement of] further details and subsequent steps. However, these sources said that the Fatah opposition has previously stopped fighting unilaterally without any negotiations, and that they adhere to the need to cease fire. They added that the subject of embarking on a democratic dialogue has been their basic demand from the first day. Accordingly, the Fatah opposition's leaders are not against stopping the fighting nor against embarking on a political dialogue.

It was officially announced last night that President Hafiz al-Asad received Minister Khaddam, who briefed him in detail on the current talks. An official source said that President al-Asad gave Minister Khaddam his directives in this regard.

In 1 hour the Indian foreign minister, who is the chairman of the Nonaligned Movement's mediation committee, is scheduled to hold a news conference in which he will talk about the results of the mediation.

Baghdad Voice of PLO Report

JN231717 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] Guarded calm prevailed on all fighting axes around Tripoli after last night's sporadic clashes. In the meantime, the Syrian forces continued to reinforce their military units and to tighten the siege around the steadfast city on the instructions of the Syrian Army staff. Some axes witnessed armed clashes between the Syrian forces and the Lebanese national and Islamic forces in which all types of weapons were used.

On the political level, efforts are continuing to achieve a cease-fire agreement. In Damascus, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and the nonaligned mission are continuing their talks with Syrian officials to reach a cease-fire agreement. The Fatah Central Committee has decided to send a delegation to attend the current talks in Damascus following consultations with Brother Commander in Chief Abu 'Ammar in Tripoli in

light of his contacts and consultations with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, King Hassan II of Morocco, and the Tunisian Government.

A delegation of the Fatah Central Committee led by Khalid al-Hasan arrived in Damascus at noon today to hold a Syrian-Palestinian dialogue within the framework of the current Arab efforts and in light of Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal's talks in the Syrian capital.

Brother Rafiq an-Natshah, Abu Shakir, member of the Palestinian delegation, made a statement to the Palestinian news agency. The following is text of the statement: I informed Saudi Foreign Minister His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal of the approval of Brother Abu 'Ammar and the Fatah Central Committee of the two points which have been presented as a basis for solving the current crisis in the PLO and ending the fighting in northern Lebanon. The first point is saving Tripoli, ending the fighting, and removing the fighters of all sides from Tripoli and its vicinity. The second point is preserving the unity of the PLO, ending the military infighting, and solving the problem through political dialogue.

Brother Abu Shakir added: We will continue the talks today to reach an agreement on means to implement this solution.

Brother Rafiq an-Natshah, who is in Damascus, affirmed that all members of the Fatah Central Committee sincerely seek an end to the fighting in Tripoli by all available peaceful means. He said: We appreciate all the efforts which have been exerted to this end, especially the efforts by Saudi Arabia, the Gulf states, Algeria and others. It is time all rifles are aimed at the Zionist enemy.

Monte Carlo on Agreement

JN231919 Paris Monte Carlo in Arabic 1720 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Telephone dispatch from Louis Faris, Radio Monte Carlo correspondent in Damascus — live or recorded]

[Text] There is a race for time between the military and political solutions. It seems, however, that as a result of the intensive mediations which Damascus has been witnessing since yesterday morning, an agreement was reached between Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and his Syrian counterpart 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam comprising two important points. The first is to safegaurd Tripoli by ending the battles and having all the fighters leave the city and its suburbs. The second point is to safeguard the PLO by ending the armed dispute within it and starting a political dialogue to end the crisis within the PLO.

Rafiq an-Natshah, Yasir 'Arafat's representative in Saudi Arabia, who arrived in Damascus yesterday, told the press this morning that the Fatah Central Committee — that is, 'Arafat's wing — has accepted the two points on achieving a cease-fire and ending the fighting and starting a political dialogue. An-Natshah added that efforts are currently being made to seek the means that will be capable of implementing these two points.

'Arafat's political adviser Khalid al-Hasan arrived in Damascus this evening to participate in the discussions and contacts on this issue with the Syrian and Saudi sides. Immediately after his arrival, he met with Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal with An-Natshah attending.

As for the dialogue between the loyalists and the dissidents, An-Natshah stated that this dialogue will begin immediately after the rifles and canons are silenced.

On the other hand, it has been learned that this agreement will be implemented on the assumption that Yasir 'Arafat will leave Tripoli. Saudi Prince Faysal, during his stay in Damascus, held a series of contacts and met twice with Minister Khaddam. It seems that these proposals, which have been accepted by the loyalists' command, are not being opposed by the dissidents command. Mahmud al-Labadi, spokesman for the dissidents, told our radio this evening that the dissidents have observed a unilateral cease-fire without any negotiations out of their concern to end destruction and bloodshed. Al-Labadi, however, reaffirmed that the dissidents remain committed to the initiative of the mediation committee formed by the PLO Central Council [PCC] under lawyer Ibrahim Bakr, a committee better known as the 18-member committee. Al-Labadi emphasized that the departure of the fighters from Tripoli means the forces which are loyal to 'Arafat because the forces of the upheaval are not present in Tripoli but in the Palestinian refugee camps.

On the issue of dialogue, Al-Labadi said that this was, and continues to be, the principal demand of the dissidents since the first day.

The 18-member committee issued a statement here expressing support for the call made by the joint command of the PFLP and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine the day before yesterday to stop the fighting and to form a field committee to supervise the implementation of the cease-fire in which ranking officers from the two fronts will participate. PNC Speaker Kahlid al-Fahum will also invite the field committee to meet immediately so that it can proceed to northern Lebanon. Khalid al-Fahum will also invite the PLO Executive Committee members, the members of the mediation committee, George Habash, and Nayif Hawatimah to meet immediately in Damascus before leaving for Tripoli to help the field committee achieve a disengagement between the fighters and put an end to the massing of military forces in northern Lebanon. After this, and in light of the new atmosphere that will prevail, the settlement of the Fatah dispute will start and Al-Fahum and the secretaries general of the various factions will participate in the dialogue to settle it. Khalid al-Fahum will issue invitations for this dialogue and will set its venue and date.

QNA on Draft Plan

GF231948 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1935 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Damascus, 23 Nov (WAKH) — QNA has reported in an urgent report from Damascus that a draft plan has been reached designed to end internecine fighting in northern Lebanon. QNA also reported that the talks which Saudi Foreign

Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal held in Damascus yesterday an today achieved positive results.

PLO representative in Riyadh Rafiq an-Natshah, who is currently present in Damascus, noted, following a meeting he held with Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan and Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, that "all the artillery guns will immediately be silenced and the process of democratic dialogue between the two Fatah factions will immediately begin."

QNA also reported that the agreement includes two main points which are: preservation of the city of Tripoli and the departure of the armed men which belong to the two Fatah factions in addition to preservation of the PLO and initiating a political dialogue in order to end the dispute within the PLO.

VOPR: 'Arafat Conditions 'Unacceptable'

NC250900 Turbul Lebanon Voice of Palestinian Revolution in Arabic 0505 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] Contacts and consultations have continued in Damascus to reach an agreement on 'Arafat's departure from Tripoli. The Saudi foreign minister has met with representatives of 'Arafat. Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam met with Brothers Muhammad Khalifah and Nimr Salih.

Reports say the main obstacle that has prevented an agreement so far is 'Arafat's insistence on leaving Tripoli on board NATO ships with 4,000 of his men — estimated at 1,000 of 'Arafat's men and 3,000 mercenaries and persons wanted by the law — as well as 'Arafat's insistence on leaving Tripoli in the same way he left Beirut. The forces of the revolution and the uprising reject this and affirm that those fighting with 'Arafat do not exceed 1,000 men. The forces of the revolution and the uprising are opposed to 'Arafat's taking with him criminals and persons wanted by the law.

The representatives of the revolution and uprising groups held a meeting yesterday evening and discussed all aspects of the situation. They held 'Arafat and his group responsible for the impossible and unacceptable conditions.

Uprising Accepts Cease-Fire

NC241540 Turbul Lebanon Voice of Palestinian Revolution in Arabic 1445 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] Brothers Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], Abu Salih [Nimr Salih], Qadri [Qadri Samih], and Abu Akram [Musa 'Awad] have met with the nonaligned states ministerial delegation. The meeting lasted 4 hours during which the uprising command outlined the situation in the Palestinian arena, particularly the question of the fighting in the north and the political and organizational deviations which have exploded the situation within the Palestinian arena, as well as the fighting started by 'Arafat and the deviationists. The uprising command affirmed to the nonaligned ministerial delegation that it will abide by the cease-fire unilaterally. The command pledged to avoid casualties and losses among the citizens.

The meeting was also attended by Brother Khalid al-Fahum, 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, Talal Naji, Muhammad Khalifah, Samir Ghawshah, and Mahmud al-Labadi. The meeting was likewise attended by the Cuban and Yugoslav foreign ministers. [words indistinct].

Jibril: Truce To End 26 Nov

NC231406 Paris AFP in English 1400 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] Al-Baddawi Camp, north Lebanon, Nov 23 (AFP) — The unofficial truce declared Monday in north Lebanon between loyalist and dissident Palestinians will end Saturday, reporters were told here today by rebel leader Ahmad Jibril of the pro-Libyan Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC). "We shall see then what we shall do," Mr. Jibril said, adding that he would meet Saturday with former Lebanese Prime Minister Salim al-Huss. Asked what would happen if Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, whose headquarters is in nearby Tripoli refused to leave the city besieged by dissident troops, Mr. Jibril said: "We shall do what is necessary."

Taking leave from the reporters, Mr. Jibril added: "I shall probably see you next week in Tripoli. Then I shall head south to fight Israel."

Tripoli, meanwhile, remained calm, but there was a massive exodus of the population by car and truck toward zgharta, in the mountains to the east, or toward Beirut.

Jibril on Cease-Fire Terms

LD240833 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] Tripoli, Lebanon — Ahmad Jibril, head of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, and a number of brothers from the command of the new revolutionary uprising in Fatah were received yesterday by Dr Salim al-Huss, a former Lebanese prime minister. Brother Ahmad Jibril and the brothers from the command of the revolutionary uprising in Fatah informed Dr al-Huss of the following stipulations:

1. To Adhere to their principled and firm stance in continuing the struggle against the capitulatory and traitorous course which 'Arafat represents.

2. To Affirm their total commitment to the cease-fire and the placing of three goups from the sons of the town of Tripoli in the areas of Duwwar Lamlulah, Ba'l Muhsin, and the University of Lebanon to observe the cease-fire and to ascertain that the revolutionary uprising is adhering to the ceasefire.

3. To reserve the right to respond to the sources of fire if they are repeated by the other party.

4. To call upon the delegation, led by Salim Al-Huss, to visit Al-Baddawi camp to ascertain the lies and exaggerations made by 'Arafat about the number of the victims, bearing in mind that the number of Al-Baddawi martyrs did not exceed five.

5. To make arrangements for the status of Tripoli harbor and the setting up of a committee to supervise the ships and prevent any ship carrying weapons or mercenaries for the advocates of the capitulatory course.

6. Yasir 'Arafat to tender his resignation immediately before leaving Tripoli. If he wishes to stay in Tripoli, he will stay there as a political refugee, at the home of Sa'id Sha'ban, without any military or political status.

7. 'Arafat's forces to have the freedom of choosing between joining the uprising or leaving with him.

'Arafat Seeks Summit

LD241252 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] Kuwait, 24 Nov (KUNA) — Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has stated that the events now taking place in Tripoli are tantamount to those that took place in 1976. He also expressed his readiness to hold a dialogue with the Syrians.

In a telephone contact with the Kuwaiti *AL-QABAS* last night, and published here today, the Palestinian leader disclosed that he has requested the convening of a quadripartite summit or a conference of Arab foreign ministers to discuss the necessary guarantees for his withdrawal — together with his forces — from Tripoli. He added: "Where will we go? To Hormuz, Tunis or San'a'," stating that the proposed foreign ministers conference will determine where he and his forces will go.

'Arafat said that the proposed conference must discuss all matters currently facing the Palestinian revolution, including relations with Syria, Arab guarantees that must be provided for his withdrawal and the withdrawal of the Palestinian forces from northern Lebanon, and also the protection of camps and civilians. 'Arafat was thus underlining that he does not want another Tal az-Za'tar, or Sabra or Shatila.

The Palestinian leader stated that he has requested the conference because Syria has refused to hold a direct dialogue with him. He said that some Arab states have agreed to the convening of the foreign ministers conference so that nobody can say that the convening of a summit is difficult.

Replying to a question by the paper on the possibility of his being transferred to Jordan, 'Arafat said: "Nobody can prevent me from going to Jordan.... We in the PLO have our own plan which is based on the recent decision of the PNC in Algiers and on the FES summit decisions.... We will talk to everyone who agrees with us on this basis...and it is on this basis that our dialogue with Jordan will be held."

With regard to the decision taken by the Lebanese Cabinet yesterday calling on the Palestinian forces to withdraw from Lebanon, the Palestinian leader said: "The Lebanese Government has done the same thing to us in the past," pointing out that he has not yet received the Lebanese Government's decision. He added that current events are the same as those of 1976; the plot is the same but the people have changed. He told the paper that he is prepared to hold a dialogue with the Syrians.

Khalid al-Hasan, member of the Executive Committee, and Rafiq an-Natshah, head of the PLO's office in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, went to Damascus yesterday at the request of Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal within the framework of the efforts being made to stop the fighting which has been continuing in Tripoli since the beginning of the month.

Reconciliation Committee Statement on Tripoli

JN231258 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 23 Nov 83 pp 1, 22

[Text] Amman — The Palestinian reconciliation committee which was formed by the PLO Central Council issued a statement yesterday urging implementation of the decision calling for an end to fratricide — a decision made by the PLO Central Council on 3 August. The following is the text of the statement:

By drawing attention to the decision to stop fratricide, which was unanimously taken by the PLO Central Council on 3 August 1983, reiterating the commitment not to return to fratricide — a commitment which was continued in the reconciliation committee's memorandum dated 21 August 1983 and which was presented to the two Fatah sides — and by stressing the need to stop fratricide in its statement issued on 12 October 1983 following the many violations of the decisions to stop the fighting which occurred before the eruption of the large-scale fighting in northern Lebanon, the reconciliation committee calls for an immediate and permanent cease-fire and supports the appeal to stop the fighting made by the joint command of the PFLP and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] on 21 November 1983. The reconciliation committee sees that, in order to ensure a permanent commitment to a cease-fire agreement, the following measures must be taken:

1. The immediate implementation of the PLO Central Council's decision of 3 August 1983 calling for the formation of a committee to supervise resolute implementation of the decision to stop the fighting and for open denunciation of any party violating this decision. As an urgent measure, the reconciliation committee believes that this supervisory committee must comprise Colonel Samir al-Khatib, director of the PLO Military Department, the official in charge of the PFLP's military affairs, and the official in charge of the DFLP's military affairs. This supervisory committee must also form a surveillance team comprising officers from the PLO Military Department, the PFLP, and the DFLP.

2. PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum must call for a meeting of this supervisory committee so that this committee and the surveillance team can leave for northern Lebanon, to Tripoli in particular, in order to start and supervise implementation of the cease-fire.

3. Brother PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum must call on the PLO Executive Committee members, the reconciliation committee members, and Brothers George Habash and Nayif Hawatimah to urgently meet in Damascus in order to leave for Tripoli to stand between the parties to the fratricide, to help the supervisory committee, and to deal with urgent matters in the field, specifi-

cally, to end the military concentrations in northern Lebanon.

The reconciliation committee believes that after the implementation of these measures, and after clearing the atmosphere, it will be possible to implement the appeal made by the joint command of the PFLP and DFLP to start settling the Fatah crisis in accordance with the reconciliation committee's 21 august 1983 memorandum, and to open a political dialogue with the participation of the PNC speaker, the secretaries general of the Palestinian factions, the six-member committee, a representative of the reconciliation committee, and representatives of the two Fatah sides. The PNC speaker will call for this dialogue and will set its date and venue.

Finally, the reconciliation committee reiterates its denunciation of fratricide regardless of the causes. It also stresses that the survival of a unified, strong, and effective PLO on the basis of the Palestine National Charter, the PLO's political and organizational programs, the PNC resolutions, the sound democratic course, and based on a collective leadership, is a sacred cause for the Palestinian people, who will have no mercy on those who play havoc with this cause.

Those who signed the statement were committee chairman Ibrahim Bakr, Muhammad Milhim, 'Abd al-Khaliq Yaghmur, Yasir 'Amr, Bahjat Abu Gharbiyah, 'Isam 'Abd al-Hadi, 'Abd al-'Aziz Saqr, Samir al-Khatib, Fa'iq Warid, 'Azmi al-Khawaja, and Mustafa Milhim.

PLO Source on Statement

JN242032 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1641 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] In response to a statement that was distributed in Damascus yesterday and published in the Jordanian papers today on behalf of the reconciliation committee, a responsible source in the Palestinian revolution in Amman has stated the following:

The statement was signed by 11 persons. Among those who signed were the Brothers Colonel Samir al-Khatib and 'Azmi al-Khawajah, alias Abu 'Isam, who are not members of the reconciliation committee. Moreover, it was found that Brother Ishaq al-Khatib attended the meeting. Also, it was revealed that the name of Brother Fayiq Warrad, a member of the reconciliation committee who was ill and absent, was used. Therefore, this means that the statement was signed by eight members of the reconciliation committee, which comprises 18 members. This does not constitute a legal quorum for holding a meeting and issuing statements or resolutions. This is the second or third mistake committed by the brother chairman of the committee.

Here, some questions must be asked: First, why are the meetings of the reconciliation committee being held by those members who are in Jordan, and in some cases by expelling some members and inviting others to attend, while all 18 members are not invited? Why are the meetings being held without having a legal quorum, and why are statements being issued by the minority on behalf of the entire committee?

Second, why, in an earlier statement, did the committee say that it had frozen its activities? Now, it revokes its previous decision. Some of its members meet and issue a statement as if the committee is a separate organization. It publishes its statements in the newspaper without sending them previously to the PLO Central Council and the Executive Committee, which formed the reconciliation committee.

Third, why did the committee or some of its members who were meeting here in Amman not meet when the Syrian and Libyan forces and their agents, including the demented Fatah dissidents, attacked the Palestinian refugee camps in Nahr al-Barid and Al-Baddawi, and before that the Al-Yarmuk camp, and while the Israeli forces were carrying out sea piracy and seizing ordinary ships in order to kidnap Palestinians?

Fourth, why did the committee not meet to discuss the serious situation from which our revolution and its legitimate leadership is suffering, at a time when 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam declared that there would be reconciliation with Yasir 'Arafat, at a time when our masses in Nahr al-Barid refugee camp were shouting support for the PLO and its Chairman Abu 'Ammar and were being fired upon by the group of the known Syrian agent ahmad Jibril, and at a time when the Syrian and Libyan tanks were destroying the refugee camps and cutting of water, electricity, and food supplies?

Fifth, why did the committee not meet when it was confirmed to the whole world that the destruction, killing, and starvation in Nahr al-Barid, Al-Baddawi, and Tripoli was a continuation of what took place in Tall az-Za'tar refugee camp in Beirut and subsequently in the Sabra and Shatila camps? What the enemy failed to achieve is being implemented by the enemy now with Arab hands and weapons and criminal and agent Palestinian puppets.

Sixth, why do the eight members who signed the latest statement call for the PLO Executive Committee to convene in Damascus? Do we understand that the Syrian authorities' order to expel leader of the march and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat from Damascus has been revoked? Or do those who signed the statement want the Executive Committee to meet in the absence of its chairman as a prelude to submitting alternatives?

Seventh, why have the eight members called for a meeting at a time when the Arab, international, and Palestinian stands clearly began to condemn the Syrian and Libyan regimes' stand, at a time when silence over what is happening to the PLO began to collapse following our heroic fighters' steadfastness under Brother Abu 'Ammar against this conspiracy, after the call for the Security Council meeting, the important meeting between the Soviet leaders and the PLO delegation, and during the USSR's stand in support of the Palestinian legitimate authority?

The end of the massacre which has been perpetrated against our people and revolution and the defeat of the conspiracy which is being implemented by the Syrian and Libyan regimes, the dissidents, and agents, are being achieved by our fighters, the stands of our great Palestinian people in Nahr al-Barid, Al-Baddawi,

Tripoli, the Al-Yarmuk camp, and inside and outside the occupied homeland — this glorious support for and rallying around our people's vanguard legitimate leadership, the support of our Arab masses everywhere, and the support of fraternal and friendly countries, foremost of which is the USSR and the world's free people.

PLO Delegation Continues Visit to USSR

Visit Advanced

JN231722 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1616 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, and his delegation continued their official visit to the USSR by holding more meetings with Soviet leaders. Our radio correspondent has learned that, within the framework of the friendly USSR's urgent efforts to support the PLO, to preserve its unity, and to back our Palestinian people's struggle to achieve their national legitimate rights, it was agreed to move forward the date of the Palestinian delegation's visit to Moscow to yesterday, Tuesday, instead of the original fixed date, which was tomorrow, Thursday.

Soviet Support Noted

GF241840 San'a' Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, yesterday met with Andrey Gromyko, Soviet first deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister. It was reported in Moscow that the talks, which lasted 1 and 1/2 hours, focused on the latest developments on the situation on the Palestinian arena. Following the conclusion of the talks, a Soviet statement was issued indicating that the Soviet Union, through Gromyko, expressed its profound concern over the continuing clashes in Tripoli since these clashes serve only the interests of the enemies of the Palestinian issue.

Mahmud 'Abbas Remarks

LD241909 Kuwait KUNA in English 1740 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] Moscow, Nov 24 (KUNA) — Visiting Fatah Central Committee memember Mahmud 'Abbas Thursday described as "positive" his talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko and stressed the need for the Palestinian resistance movement to improve its ties with Syria. While criticizing what he said was "undisputable" evidence that Syria was giving considerable backing to forces opposed to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in the northern Lebanese town of Tripoli, 'Abbas, better known by his nom-de-guerre of Abu Mazin, told KUNA that it was obvious that Palestinian-Syrian relations needed to be restored "on a healthy basis." If such a rapprochement was to take place, Abu Mazin said "the only condition we would place on Syria would be for it to leave the PLO to take its own decisions, and to respect nonintervention, from Syria or anywhere else, in the organization's affairs."

The Palestinian official stressed that the Soviet Union appreciated and agreed with this point, and realized that a strong independent PLO was in the interests not only of the Palestinian people, but of Syria. "We value the role played by the Soviet Union in trying to mend fences between us and Syria, and expect that it will continue to exert efforts in this direction", he said.

Turning to the situation in Tripoli, Abu Mazin expressed hope that the recently-arranged ceasefire would be a prelude to a complete end to the crisis and differences that have intermittently plagued the Fatah movement for the last six months. But, he pointed out, it was not so much what would happen in Tripoli that would judge on the legitimacy of 'Arafat and his loyalists, but events in th eoccupied Palestinian territories, including the West Bank and Gaza Strip, where pro-'Arafat demonstrations have been held on an almost daily basis for the last three weeks.

Abu Mazin was also critical of attempts to make the question of 'Arafat's departure from Tripoli the focus of the problem. He bitterly attacked Lebanese opposition national salvation front co-founder Walid Junblatt for saying that 'Arafat's departure from the town would contribute towards finding a solution to the Lebanese crisis. "The Lebanese crisis was there long before 'Arafat went to Tripoli, and will probably still be there after he leaves", he commented. It was the failure of different Lebanese parties to reach an internal settlement that was the crux of the Lebanese crisis, Abu Mazin said, and Junblatt's implication that 'Arafat or the Palestinians were a major cause of it was "unreasonable and illogical".

Abu Mazin described Junblatt as an "unworthy" leader of Lebanese patriots, who did not deserve to inherit the post of leader of the Druze community from his late father, Lebanese national Movement founder Kamal Junblatt. History will show that we have a lot of information that shows that this man (Walid Junblatt) is far from the patriotic position which he pretends to stand for.

Abu Mazin denied certain western analysts' interpretation of the current visit of a top-ranking Palestinian delegation to Moscow as a visit by representatives of certain PLO constituent groupings rather than the organization as a whole. The delegation, he said, was composed of members of Fatah and the Democratic and Popular Fronts, the PLO's three largest groups and, along with the minor Palestine Liberation Front, those within the organization which were independent from Arab regimes. He stressed that all the delegation members were collectively attending all meetings with Soviet and other officials in Moscow, and that all had a consistent line and a similar approach to the current problems plaguing Fatah and the PLO as a whole.

VOPR Quotes PLO Secretary

NC231526 Turbul Lebanon Voice of Palestinian Revolution in Arabic 1445 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] Brother Muhammad Khalifah, PLO Executive Committee secretary, has stated the following:

We have heard from the information media about the departure

for Moscow of a delegation representing the PLO. Since the PLO Executive Committee did not form this delegation nor was it aware of it, the PLO Executive Committee would like to tell everyone, particularly the friendly Soviet Union, that this delegation represents only itself and in no way represents the PLO Executive Committee's views.

Muragha 22 Nov Appeal to Palestinian Arabs
LD231731 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Appeal by Sa'id Musa Muragha to Palestinian people on evening of 22 November, place not specified — recorded]

[Text] O sons of our great people: Since the start of your glorious uprising, deviant, opportunist, and linked [marboutah] forces inside and outside the Palestinian arena have persisted in distorting the noble objectives for which we set out. They waged unsuccessful military, political, and propaganda campaigns to abort our move, thus preserving the positions and privileges which they achieved through years of corruption and deviation. They resorted to the use of arms against their comrades instead of responding to the just demands loudly raised by the rising movement. They also rejected all good offices aimed at solving the conflict through democratic dialogue. Thus, our only choice was to defend the principles in which we believe and for which you set out.

Our defense of the just reformist objectives was a defense of the objectives and demands which you have always raised and struggled for. You long ago sensed the widespread corruption of the gangs which achieve their privileges at your expense and collect money at the expense of your martyrs and the blood of your sons. Our defense until death of the just reformist objectives is a defense of you and of our joint cause, the cause of all honest and free men in this world. The deviationist gangs which have climbed to leadership of our great movement, Fatah, wanted to abort our move by isolating us from the masses of our people. They waged a fierce campaign against Syria and Libya in order to cover up the internal dispute and the corruption and deviation — political, financial, organizational, and behavioral — which caused it. They also continued their provocations against our positions and prevented the honest fighters from joining our ranks.

'Arafat's provocations against the uprising and its elements and supporters were not limited to the Palestinian national ranks. He proceeded to widen the circle of opponents and enemies to include the Lebanese circle through participation in a massacre of the fighters of the Lebanese Communist Party and the Syrian Nationalist Social Party in Tripoli who had long shared with us every adversity and fought with us the most honorable battles against the Zionist enemy.

O masses of our great people, the determination of 'Arafat's leadership to reject our just reformist demands pushed it to prepare extensive sedition in the north. It positioned its guns and launchers among the civilian population in our steadfast camps in the north. It also deployed its heavy weapons and vehicles among the civilian population of brave Tripoli. With regard to this criminal behavior, our forces had to remove these deviant gangs in order to protect our kinfolk and people in the camps and to spare them and their belongings destruction and annihilation.

O masses of our great people, now that the [word indistinct] of sedition in our camps in the north have ended, life has once again returned to normal and we will not allow the deviant forces and the corrupt gangs to play with the resources of our people or manipulate our cause. We urge our people in the north to return to their homes and camps. We assure them that the gangs of corruption which have been rejected forever will not be allowed to return to our ranks and camps. We will also not allow them to play with lives, money, and hallowed objects.

You, our brothers in Fatah, O sons of Al-'Asifah, we call on you to work for the unity of your movement and reject the [words indistinct]. We also urge you to shoulder your historic responsibilities in correcting the course of your great revolution [words indistinct].

O sons of Fatah, O men of 'Asifah, hold onto the combat rifle that has always been the symbol of your dignity and the legitimacy of your struggle [words indistinct]. Reject their orders to open fire on your brothers the fighters because this is a service to their attitudes, privileges [words indistinct] and a service to the Zionist enemy. [Words indistinct] We shall continue together, O comrades in arms, on the road of liberation and we shall march on together [words indistinct]. Glory and eternity for our revered martyrs and revolution until victory.

'Arafat Receives Egyptian Popular Delegation
JN231710 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar today received a delegation of the Egyptian people headed by Kamal ad-Din Husayn, member of the former Egyptian Revolutionary Council. The delegation included Ibrahim Shukri, Lutfi al-Khuli, and a large number of personalities representing various groups of the Egyptian nationalist movement, popular organizations, and trade and professional unions. The delegation brought letters of support and soldiarity with the Palestinian revolution from all political, trade unionist, and popular forces in Egypt. A long political discussion took place between brother commander in chief Abu 'Ammar and the Egyptian people's delegation.

Kamal ad-Din Husayn praised the Paelstinian revolution's courageous stand under the leadership of Brother Abu 'Ammar in defense of the Arab nation's honor. He affirmed that the Egyptian people are ready to give all forms of support to the Palestinian revolution.

OAPEC Committee Meets in Kuwait 23 Nov

LD231348 Kuwait KUNA in English 1110 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Kuwait, Nov 23 (KUNA) — Oil ministers and representatives of the ten-member state Organjzation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries [OAPEC] started here Wednesday their bi-annual ordinary meeting to discuss and follow up a number of joint Arab oil projects.

The 32nd meeting of the OAPEC Ministerial Council, headed by the Saudi Minister of Oil and Mineral Resources Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, will include Kuwaiti Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Adhbi, and the ministers of Bahrain, Tunisia, Syria, Iraq, and representatives of the UAE, Qatar, Algeria, and Libya. The Ministerial Council will discuss a number of issues dealing with joint Arab projects, study establishing a joint project for producing protein single cell, complete the establishment of a dry-dock in Algeria, and discuss the budget of the organization and the Arab Institution for Training and the Judicial Authority for 1984.

The council will also follow up recommendations of the second Arab energy conference and prepare for the third Arab energy conference.

Yamani on Iran Threat, Prices

LD231757 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1432 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 23 Nov (KUNA) — Saudi Minister of Petroleum and Minerial Affairs Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani has described Iran's threats to close the Strait of Hormuz as a threat to the entire international community. Shaykh Yamani told reporters here today that the question of confronting the Iranian threat "is a matter for the entire international community since this Iranian measure, if carried out, means the stifling of the world economy." The Saudi minister, who took part in the meeting of the OAPEC Ministerial Council — which opened and closed here today — has rejected the idea of reducing the basic price of oil from its current level of $29 per barrel.

Statement Issued

LD231751 Kuwait KUNA in English 1441 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 23 (KUNA) — Oil ministers of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) ended their meeting here Wednesday after adopting a resolution forming a four-man ministerial committee to assist the organization in preparing 1985-89 working plan. The Ministerial Committee will group Bahrain, Tunisia, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

A statement released following the meeting said the council had approved the budgets of the organization, the judicial authority and the Arab oil training institute for the year 1984. The council decided to extend the tenure of members of the judicial authority of OAPEC for a new term of three years as of May 6, 1984.

The council assigned the Secretariat to continue the feasibility study of the dry dock in Algeria from the economic and technical points of view with the concerned authorities in Algiers.

The council also agreed on referring the planned Arab joint venture of lubricating oil additives to the Arab company for petroleum investments.

The Ministerial Council was briefed during the meeting on the recommendations of the third Arab energy conference and lauded the efforts of OAPEC Secretariat for the convening of the third conference.

The council agreed on continuing contacts between OAPEC and the Latin American states energy organization.

Reports on the technical seminars held by the organization were also presented at the conference and it was agreed that the next meeting be held in Kuwait May 9, 1984.

GULF AFFAIRS

YAR-PDRY Standing Committee Issues Statement

GF241456 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text of statement issued by standing committee on trade exchange between YAR and PDRY]

[Text] The joint standing committee on the exchange of trade between the two parts [of Yemen] held its first session in San'a' 20-23 November 1983 under the chairmanship of Mahmud Sa'id al-Madhi, member of the Central Committee and finance minister in the southern part, and Ahmad Qa'id Barakat, minister of trade economy and industry in the northern part. Also taking part in the session were Ahmad 'Ubayd al-Fadli, minister of trade and supply in the southern part, and Muhammad al-Khadim al-Wajih, finance minister in the northern part.

In an atmosphere of brotherhood and cordiality, the committee reviewed the ideal methods to facilitate trade exchange in agricultural and industrial commodities of Yemeni origin between the two parts. A number of decisions were reached which will ensure this goal. The next session of the committee is scheduled to be held in Aden.

BAHRAIN

Heir Apparent Leaves for Morocco 23 Nov

GF230912 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0800 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Manama, 23 Nov (WAKH) — Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahrain Defense Force, left Manama for Rabat this morning on a visit to the Kingdom of Morocco that will last several days.

Ministries To Adopt Austerity Measures

GF240505 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 24-25 Nov 83 p 1

[By Soman Baby]

[Text] Spending by Bahrain government ministries is to be cut with a new finance streamlining package.

The new year will see the Ministry of Finance taking sole control of all governmental financial transactions. New systems and austerity measures will be introduced in an attempt to save cash.

The Ministry of Finance will be switched on to a better computer system in January which should cut down bureaucracy and speed up payment procedures, says the Director of Accounting Systems Development Sa'id al-Marzuq.

"As government activities are so diverse, ranging across the board from health care to electricity we will be helping individual ministries develop a standardised system suiting them personally," he said.

A finance manual has been developed and is being used in treatment of payment, loans, cash control, projects control, purchasing, travel and insurance.

One of the cuts will see only officials holding the rank of director and above being allowed to make overseas telephone calls.

"In emergencies, head of sections can also make such calls after filling in certain forms," said Mr al-Marzuq.

No other ministry beside that of finance and national economy will be allowed to deal directly with banks.

The ministry's accounting operations department will decide whether an individual ministry can open a separate bank account.

All overseas payments will be made by the Finance Ministry too.

"Ministries will also have to provide us with details of payment for travel to employees — both Bahrainis and expatriates — so we can keep a record of what they are entitled to," Mr al-Marzuq added.

The ministry has also just completed a study on developing a revenue control system for the Labour Ministry which collects between BD 4-7,000 a day in work permits fees.

KUWAIT

Deputy Premier Receives 'Arafat Message

LD231454 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] Kuwait, 23 Nov (KUNA) — It was officially announced here that Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah, deputy premier, foreign minister, and minister of information, today received a message from PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and that a reply was sent to him. 'Arafat's message was conveyed by Fatah Central Committee member and deputy speaker of the PNC Salim az-Za'nun and by the head of the PLO's office here, Awni Battash, when they met earlier today.

Az-Za'nun told KUNA that 'Arafat's message is connected "with the latest developments and latest reports of the various mediations to end the problem which exists in northern Lebanon." He apologized for not disclosing the content of Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah's message and said that he has conveyed it to Mr 'Arafat.

Nonaligned Group's Talks on Palestinian Dispute

LD242027 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1825 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] Kuwait, 24 Nov (KUNA) — The deputy prime minister, minister of foreign affairs, and minister of information, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, tonight chaired hurried talks at Kuwait airport with the nonaligned committee in charge of investigating the Palestinian dispute. The talks concentrated on the results that the committee has achieved during its visit to Damascus and its contacts with the varous parties concerned with the fighting in northern Lebanon.

The committee, which is headed by Indian Foreign Minister Narasimha Rao, arrived here about 1900 today, while two of its members remained in the Syrian capital. They are the Yugoslav federal secretary for foreign affairs, Lazar Mojsov, and Senegal's permanent representative to the United Nations, Massamba Sarre.

Immediately on arrival, the committee held a meeting in the VIP hall at the airport with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad for about an hour. After the meeting Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad expressed his pleasure at the results achieved by the committee in Damascus.

In a statement to KUNA and *AL-QABAS*, he said: The committee's achievement of an unlimited cease-fire agreement is regarded as a great achievement in resolving Palestinian differences and protecting the PLO's unity for the sake of protecting the ranks of the Palestinian people. Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad praised the committee's efforts, saying: They followed the same path as the one we followed which was started by the GCC earlier this month.

He remarked: The most important term of the agreement is that the brother Palestinians have agreed to resolve their differences peacefully, and this is what we have always endeavored to achieve and stressed the need of to spare Palestinian blood, which must not be shed except for the sake of the cause. He expressed hope that all parties would adhere to the terms of the agreement.

He also expressed his appreciation of the committee's efforts and that of the Nonaligned Movement, of which we are a part. He also appreciated the committee's speed in taking this initiative, which came at an opportune moment to stop the fighting in northern Lebanon.

Mr Rao left for his country after the end of the talks, while Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, a member of the committee, began an official visit to Kuwait.

KUNA has learned that Mr Rao and the other members of the committee made intensive efforts in Damascus in order to achieve the results reached. Committee sources said that the first to agree to the agreement were Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] and Abu Salih [Nimr Salih], and that the official PLO spokesman, 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, was the link between the committee and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in his Tripoli headquarters. Among those who accepted the agreement were the deputy secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Talal Naji, and a number of the resistance unit commanders.

The sources stressed that contacts between the committee and officials of the GCC states will continue in order to coordinate the stands and efforts of the two sides to safeguard the firmness of the cease-fire declaration, to help Palestinians start a necessary, peaceful dialogue, and to regain the PLO's unity.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM on Shultz UJA Speech

GF241558 Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 23 Nov 83 pp 1, 29

[Editorial: "The Speech and the Evidence"]

[Excerpts] Yesterday we received the text of the speech delivered by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz before the United Jewish Appeal in the U.S. city of Atlanta 2 days ago. The speech centered on the Middle East dispute. Had it not been indicated that this speech was delivered by the U.S. secretary, who was once regarded as a friend of the Arabs, we would have thought that it was one of Shamir's speeches or that it might have been made by this or that Zionist leader. There is absolutely no difference between the language of the U.S. secretary and the language spoken by the rulers of Israel.

It seems that — following the discovery of Syrian arms and of Lebanon's intention to abrogate the agreement with Israel — the United States has "resorted" to discussing strategic cooperation with Israel in a very threatening manner. This move is either designed to accentuate the fact that the Arabs have to be submissive or to emphasize that the Lebanese-Israeli agreement is not a subject for discussion. Therefore, according to the U.S. views, this is a transient stage which should lead to another stage and not backward.

It seems that the United States is stressing the importance of the role played by the Lebanese Army — "which we will make into an effective power" — as seen in the Army's immediate handing over of the Israeli pilot to Israel after Syrian missiles downed his F-16 warplane the day before yesterday. This also explains the behind-the-scenes maneuvering to pressure the Lebanese authorities "not to go too far" in appeasing those who demand the abrogation of the agreement and no return to a balanced situation in Lebanon.

The latest Israeli moves, which are taking place with U.S. approval, are being carried out openly and this is what Shultz overtly called for in his speech. It seems then that the U.S.-Israeli plan for Lebanon most certainly includes working in the direction of the final liquidation of the Palestinian issue through implementation of the Reagan initiative.

At any rate, if Arab officials read the Shultz speech, they will reach the conclusion that the United States and Israel are one and that the two of them are firmly moving in accordance with a plan they have concocted to eliminate the Arab presence.

Turkish Defense Minister Departs 23 Nov

LD231346 Kuwait KUNA in English 1244 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 23 (KUNA) — The Turkish Defense Minister Haluk Bayulken left to Frankfurt Wednesday morning after a short official visit to Kuwait. During his one-day stay, Bayulken

has delivered a message from his president Kenan Evren to Kuwait's Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah. The Turkish official has also explained to Kuwaiti officials his country's view on the new situation in north Cyprus following the declaration of an independent Turkish-Cypriot state.

UAE

President Receives Tunisian, Indian Messages

GF231246 Doha QNA in Arabic 1110 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 23 Nov (QNA) — UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has received two messages from Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba and Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on the current efforts to end the fighting among the Palestinians in northern Lebanon. WAM reported that Mrs Gandhi's message also deals with the results of the meeting which was held by a number of nonaligned leaders in New York in October during the UN General Assembly meetings and the efforts of the Nonaligned Movement on international problems and the course of the nonaligned countries since the convention of the movement's last summit conference in New Delhi.

The messages were delivered by Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caid es-Sebsi and Indian ambassador in Abu Dhabi (Ishrat) Aziz during their separate meetings with Shaykh Zayid today. Following the meeting, Mr es-Sebsi, who arrived in Abu Dhabi yesterday on a 4-day visit to the UAE, said that during the meeting bilateral relations and means to strengthen and develop them in various fields were discussed.

Tunisian Minister's Press Conference

GF241406 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Excerpts] Tunisian Foreign Affairs Minister Beji Caid es-Sebsi said that His Highness President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has given him a reply message addressed to President Habib Bourguiba which includes his approval of the Tunisian initiative to find a solution to the current crisis in the Palestinian arena and make preparations for an Arab summit conference. During a press conference this morning, the Tunisian foreign minister said that this initiative is based on three basic points which include a collective Arab appeal issued by the Arab leaders and kings to the Palestinian factions which are fighting in northern Lebanon to end the fighting within the next 12 hours and to regard this appeal as an Arab summit resolution which should be adhered to all sides. Any side which opposes its implementation is to be regarded as opposing Arab unanimity and the Arab group should renounce this side. He said that the Tunisian initiative also includes sending a committee made up of military and civil observers to northern Lebanon immediately to implement the cease-fire and separate the fighting sides. Then an Arab foreign ministers emergency conference will be held to evaluate the situation and the reasons for these regrettable incidents with all sides participating in the conference.

The Tunisian foreign affairs minister said: The last point of this initiative is to hold an ordinary Arab summit conference this year after providing for a suitable atmosphere.

The Tunisian foreign minister said that his talks with the UAE officials dealt with exchange of views on the current Arab situation and issues of mutual interest, including the Arab and international levels and bilateral relations.

The Tunisian minister stressed the importance of holding an Arab summit conference but said that it is more important now to end the bloodshed between the Palestinians. There is Arab unanimity on that point. He referred to the efforts being exerted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to end the fighting among the Palestinian factions, saying: Tunisia is with all efforts toward this end. We regard them as honorable and support them.

Tunisian Foreign Affairs Minister Beji Caid es-Sebsi affirmed his country's support for the PLO under Yasir 'Arafat's leadership. He said that Tunisia supports Palestinian decisionmaking and noninterference in the internal affairs of states and national liberation movements. He said that Yasir 'Arafat will attend the upcoming Arab summit conference because Arab unanimity recognizes the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. He said that everyone in the Arab League is equal in rights, duties, and responsibilities, and no Arab state has the right to object to that.

The Tunisian foreign minister announced that Algeria and Mauritania will sign an agreement soon to solve the border problems between them within the framework of the efforts which are being exerted by the Arab Maghreb countries to clear the atmosphere between them.

President Receives Message From 'Arafat

GF240740 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0620 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 23 Nov (WAKH) — UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has received a written message from PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat which covers the current developments in northern Lebanon and includes an appeal to Shaykh Zayid and Arab leaders to exert their efforts in order to reaffirm the cease-fire and solve the crisis in the PLO. Shaykh Zayid received the message during his meeting with PLO representative in UAE Anis al-Khatib tonight. Anis al-Khatib said that Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan affirmed the UAE's support for the PLO and its legitimate leadership under the chairmanship of Yasir 'Arafat. The president also affirmed the UAE's support for the PLO for its unity and persistence.

Supports 'Arafat

GF241442 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan affirmed the UAE's support for the PLO and its legitimate

leadership under the chairmanship of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. In an exclusive statement to the newspaper *AL-ITTIHAD* published today, the president said: We support 'Arafat's leadership and not anyone else's. He is the one whom we recognize as the legitimate representative and leader of the Palestinian people. He said: We insist on an immediate end to the fighting between brothers, because the enemy is the only beneficiary.

In this regard, his highness asked: What is the purpose behind the continued bloodshed and waste of potentials? What is the issue which is worth this continued violence? He also asked: Was this issue referred to the Arab leaders and kings? Did it prove too difficult to sort out, that they had to resort to brother killing brother? Or did they really try to resolve it before reaching for the sun? Or is it the result of actions of ignorant people or separatists who want to destroy the will of the Arab nation?

Shaykh Zayid asserted that it is the responsibility of those who believe in justice and those who are loyal to the Arab nation to strike with an iron fist at every tyrant and oppressor, warning that if this is not done then confusion will prevail.

Papers Comment on Exchange of POW's Accord

GF250735 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0700 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 25 Nov (WAM) — Two local papers commented today on the real goal behind the Israeli enemy's agreement to exchange the prisoners of war and to release about 5,000 Palestinian detainees at this time in particular since it is known that he does not do anything unless he is sure that he will reap something in return and will have guaranteed profit.

The newspaper *AL-ITTIHAD* said this measure causes much political speculation on the enemy's measure at this time. "It is clear that there are many aspects to the prisoner exchange deal. We are particularly concerned about the enemy's attempt to use it as a media campaign to reap the highest profit possible by deceiving the world — through trying to don the robe of civilization, which is not his — that he respects human rights.

AL-ITTIHAD called for an intensive media campaign to expose the enemy's inhumane methods in treating the prisoners of war and how Ansar camp was another form — indeed a more brutal form — of the Nazist detentions. It also called for rehabilitating the released detainees, militarily and pyschologically, to occupy their proper place in the struggle in defense of the Palestinian rights.

The Ash-Shariqah-based newspaper *AL-KHALIJ* affirmed that the Zionist enemy found in the Palestinian revolution's current situation a good chance to address a message to the world "that he is releasing thousands of Palestinian prisoners while their leaders fight and are leading battles against camps and cities in northern Lebanon." *AL-KHALIJ* said: "The enemy also found in the current situation a good opportunity to say that he accepts the logic of mediation with Palestinians while they needed the mediation of the nonaligned countries, the Soviet Union, and Arab countries to stop their fighting. The enemy probably wanted to say many things in his message on the stand of some Arab countries which are fuelling Palestinian disputes."

The paper called on Palestinian belligerents to review their calculations and foil the enemy in using this chance and to turn it into Palestinian and Arab effort to push nationalist action many steps forward toward the desired targets.

AL-BAYAN Critical of Shultz Statement

GF210808 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0655 GMT 21 Nov 83

[From press review]

[Excerpt] Manama, 21 Nov (WAKH) — The UAE newspaper *AL-BAYAN* today commented on the statement made by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz on the Palestinians before the council of the United Jewish Appeal yesterday in which he called on the Israeli enemy to adopt "moderation" in its policy toward the Palestinians and to abstain from establishing new settlements or expanding those already existing in the occupied Arab territories. The paper said that Shultz comprehends Israeli moderation, as he defined it in his speech, as having the Israelis ensure the Palestinians the opportunity to develop while implementing just administrative practices, at the same time ignoring the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, to achieve the people's national aspirations, and to participate in the political future of their homeland.

The paper indicated what bothers Shultz with regard to the settlements is the establishment of new ones and the expansion of the existing ones. As for the existing ones, "they certainly have become, according to him, a historic and geographic fact."

The paper inquired as to what will happen if Israel does not respond positively to the request made by the U.S. secretary of state, who calls for a moderate policy and abstaining from establishing further settlements or from expanding the existing ones. The paper also inquired about what conditions the United States has set. The paper expressed the conviction that nothing will change because of the enemy's policy and the continued U.S. support for this enemy, which makes it "a powerful side that turns a deaf ear."

President Receives Eritrean Front Official

GF241017 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0623 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 23 Nov (WAKH) — UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan called for uniting the Eritrean revolution factions and studying the most appropriate means for reliable joint action from within its ranks. His highness said that the Eritrean revolution should make use of its successful liberation moves in order to achieve its goals. This came during his meeting tonight with the Eritrean delegation led by Issias Afewerki, assistant chairman of the Eritrean Popular Liberation Front.

During the meeting, his highness said that sacrifice for the sake of the glory and dignity of the homeland and nation is something which should be appreciated and whatever the differences they should not lead to isolation or clash, but should lead to joint work and joint stance, so that it can be possible to rely on and support the struggle of the fighters. His highness said: I have always supported the unity of the Eritrean revolution. I have no ambitious desires in anything and my only goal is the unity of this revolution. We are people of unity and we do not spare any effort for Eritrean unity. The president said: Our goal is to find a legitimate framework that will enable the Eritrean people to recover their rights. It is through unity that they can achieve this goal. A believer should think about the greatness of the Creator and avoid degradation.

Kuwaiti Interior Minister Leaves for Oman
LD221108 Kuwait KUNA in English 1014 GMT 22 Nov 83

[Text] Dubai, Nov 22 (KUNA) — Kuwaiti Interior Minister Sheikh Nawwaf al-Ahmad, left to the Sultanate of Oman Tuesday morning winding up a two-day official visit to the UAE. Sheikh Nawwaf's short official visit to Oman comes within the framework of a Gulf-tour that included Bahrain and the Saudi Kingdom.

Meanwhile, UAE State Minister for Interior Affairs Hamudah ibn 'Ali told KUNA that Sheikh Nawwaf's visit to the UAE strengthened the "brotherly relations existing between the two countries." He also praised talks held lately between the two states interior ministries' delegations, stressing that these talks aimed at boosting cooperation in the security fields. Ibn 'Ali stressed that the exchange of visits between Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states' officials in the security field on various levels are to be "increased."

On the other hand, the UAE official accepted an invitation by the Kuwaiti official to visit Kuwait which he said is scheduled to be shortly.

During the two-day official visit to the UAE, Sheikh Nawwaf has met with the UAE President Sheikh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, deputy of the Supreme commander of the armed forces and crown prince in Abu Dhabi Sheikh Khalifa ibn Zayid, deputy premier and crown prince in Dubai Sheikh Maktum ibn Rashid, his UAE counterpart Sheikh Mubarak ibn Muhammad and eventually with member of the UAE Federation Supreme Council, ruler of Sharjah Sheikh Sultan ibn Muhammad al-Wawasmi.

YAR

Arab League's Klibi Arrives, Makes Statement
GF250442 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League, arrived in San'a' last night on a visit to our country during which he will hold talks with the brother president and secretary general of the General People's Congress and brother officials on the latest Arab developments. In a statement to SABA' NEWS AGENCY, Klibi said his visit comes within his current tour of a number of Arab countries to hold talks on Arab issues and intensify Arab efforts to stop the Palestinian bloodshed. He said he will brief the brother president on the efforts being made by some Arab countries and the Arab League Secretariat to end fighting in northern Lebanon, save the city of Tripoli, and provide the favorable atmosphere of amity among various parties. Klibi also praised our country's pan-Arab stands and the initiative by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad in their call to intensify Arab efforts to put an end to fighting in northern Lebanon.

Prime Minister Hits Libyan, Syrian Stand on PLO

NC231556 Cairo MENA in English 1420 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 23 (MENA) — Egyptian Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din has denounced the Syrian and Libyan stands against the Palestine Liberation Organization. He said Egypt condemns any interference in "Palestinian legitimacy" that would prevent the execution of the Palestinian people's will and their right to genuine and honest expression of their opinions. In an interview published here today in the Iraqi newspaper *AL-'IRAQ*, the Egyptian official said we cannot understand the rationale of any interference by Arab or non-Arab countries in inter-Palestinian affairs.

Answering a question on Iraqi acceptance of all initiatives to end the Iran-Iraq war and Iran's rejection of any peace efforts, Premier Muhyi ad-Din said that Iraq had done all it should to bring the war to an end and start negotiations for peace. The Egyptian official condemned Iran's stand, noting that it had rejected all the good offices of the Islamic Conference Organisation, the Non-aligned Movement, and even the United Nations.

Premier Muhyi ad-Din said he hoped that recent expanded contacts between Iraq and Egypt would be a new turning point in the interest of the entire Arab nation. Denouncing interference in inter-Palestinian affairs Premier Muhyi ad-Din noted that Egypt had, at no time, done so, and still believes that the Palestinian people should be allowed to choose their representatives without any outside interference. On the best means for resolving the Lebanese cause [as received], Muhyi ad-Din said the Israeli forces should first withdraw from Lebanon and should be followed by the Syrian forces. He noted the situation was extremely complicated after the attack on the U.S. Marines as well as the assault on the Palestinians. Dr Muhyi ad-Din said the solution of the Palestinian cause lies in the hands of the national conciliation conference. Egypt's relations with the African states are excellent and this was proved during the Security Council elections where Egypt won 125 votes, including the majority of African votes, Dr Muhyi ad-Din said.

The Egyptian prime minister said contacts which Egypt conducted with the majority of Arab countries during the past two years were characterised with frankness, seriousness, and the pressing desire of all parties to work for the common interest regardless of the fact that these contacts did not take the diplomatic form.

Mubarak Reaffirms Position on Palestinian Issue

NC241352 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Excerpts] President Husni Mubarak has visited various work sites and production sites in Egypt's governorates. Today, accompanied by Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din and the ministers of social affairs, economy, finance, and development, as well as the governors of Cairo and Al-Jizah, Mubarak visited the social crafts fair which was organized by the Social Affairs Ministry in the Al-Jazirah fairgrounds. The president recommended that attention be given to exports and to limiting imports to those goods which cannot be produced in Egypt. The president praised productive families and said: Production alone will raise the social standard of the citizens and is the only course to prosperity and well-being. After inspecting the exhibits of the social crafts fair, he visited the Al-Kitab exhibition which was organized on the occasion of the international year of the child.

At the end of his tour, President Mubarak answered a question by a correspondent regarding Egypt's role in Israel's release of some Palestinian fighters. The president said: Egypt's role as far as the Palestinian question is concerned is a role that does not end and does not have any limits. We are a driving force for the Palestinian issue which no one in the world can deny. President Mubarak affirmed that Egypt's policy is based on reality and therefore all of its decisions are characterized by logic and reason.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali Interviewed on Foreign Policy

AU181544 Rome ANSA in English 1528 GMT 18 Nov 83

[Text](ANSA) Rome, November 18 — The Palestinian question and relations between Egypt and Libya were the two central issues discussed by Egyptian deputy premier and foreign minister, Kamal Hasan 'Ali, in an interview published here today by the *REPUBBLICA* daily. Hasan 'Ali arrived in Italy for a visit Thursday. With regard to the situation of Palestinian Liberation Organization Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Egypt's efforts to save him, the official reiterated Egypt's support for 'Arafat as "the legitimate president of the PLO." Hasan 'Ali went on to say that what is happening in Tripoli harms the Palestinian cause and strikes out at the legitimacy of the PLO. As to specific Egyptian initiatives in this regard, he said that "we are consulting with several Arab states and friends on how to implement 'Arafat's request to abandon Tripoli after having received adequate guarantees for his men."

As to the future, the chief of Cairo diplomacy said that those were wrong who thought that there could be any solution to the Lebanese situation after a split within the PLO and with the continued conflict among Lebanese factions. "I believe that the policy being pursued by Syria heightens destabilization in the area and moves peace ever farther off," he said. As to the chances of a re-establishment of diplomatic relations between Egypt and the Arab states, Hasan 'Ali said that "today relations are gradually improving at a bilateral level and this is due to the fact that the Arabs are aware that they need Egypt." "We are in favor of a return to Arab solidarity and to natural relations, even though at the moment we are emphasizing priority for the content of relations over form," he concluded.

'Ali on Contacts With United States on Middle East

NC241900 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] In a statement to our correspondent, Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated that Egypt is in daily contact with the United States to follow-up the developments in the Middle East. He also said that Egypt has asked the United States to maintain the momentum for achieving a peaceful settlement of the area's problems, be it the Lebanese problem or the Palestinian problem, and to prepare a suitable

atmosphere for achieving a comprehensive settlement. He said that this can only come about through calming the military situation among all parties. 'Ali said that in response to the French Government's request, Egypt agreed to provide all facilities to the French planes on their landing at Cairo carrying the Palestinians and Lebanese released by Israel.

Ghali Interviewed on Jerusalem Visit Anniversary
PM241145 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 20 Nov 83 pp 1,3

[Interview with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali on the occasion of the 6th anniversary of President as-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem — date, place not given]

[Excerpts] Question: Today marks the 6th anniversary of President as-Sadat's trip to Jerusalem. In view of the events and developments since that day, how do you assess that move in which you yourself participated?

Answer: My assessment of the Jerusalem visit has not changed since 19 November 1977. I am sure that tomorrow's historians will rate the visit as one of the most important events of the 20th century. Since 19 November 1977 Egypt's course has been one of dialogue and negotiation. That came after 30 years of an Egyptian policy based on force and war. I must add that the Egyptian peace initiative resulted in a major achievement. Egypt recovered its usurped territory in Sinai.

On the other hand, there is, undoubtedly, a negative aspect reflected in the fact that comprehensive and just peace which was one of our objectives has not been achieved.

Question: Does this mean that the Jerusalem trip did not achieve its objectives?

Answer: It is not as simple and categorical as that. The Jerusalem trip did achieve some of its objectives, such as the return of Sinai and giving Egypt the opportunity to gear the major part of its efforts toward solving domestic problems and toward economic reconstruction and development. It also marked the beginning of a dynamic and lengthy negotiation process which is bound to take years before its results can be judged. What I can say is that to date the trip has not fulfilled the aim specified on the very first day by the late president in his speech to the Israeli Knesset — that aim is a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in the region.

Question: But do you not believe that the Jerusalem trip caused more complications and contradictions on the Arab side and further weakened and undermined the Arab position?

Answer: That is what the rejectionist front members say in an attempt to blame all Arab ills and contradictions on the Egyptian peace initiative.

Question: But did Egypt's absence from the Arab ranks not weaken the Arab world and restrict its ability to act politically and diplomatically? Is this not a negative consequence of the Jerusalem visit?

Answer: I admit that there may be some truth in what you say, but let me explain this point. Egypt's leadership of the Arab world is a source of strength and an essential factor in effective Arab moves. Egypt's pioneering role is twofold. There is the cultural and technological aspect reflecting Egypt's scientific, economic, cultural, and social accomplishments and Egypt's superiority over all the Arab countries in these fields.

The second aspect is Egypt's pioneering role in the political, military, and strategic fields. Egypt led the military confrontation with Israel from 1945 to 1975 when the policy of confrontation and force prevailed. This aspect of Egypt's leadership ended with the signing of the peace treaty.

So, the cultural aspect of Egypt's leadership of the Arab world has not been affected by the peace treaty with Israel. The political aspect was suspended to some extent, but it is beginning to regain its effectiveness.

Egypt's recent election to UN Security Council membership by a large majority confirms Egypt's international position and the world's appreciation of its role. It also denotes Arab recognition that the Arab states are best represented by Egypt in the Security Council.

I am confident that the next few months will witness more positive developments in Egypt's relations with the Arab states. I am also confident that by the 7th anniversary of the Jerusalem trip all will be well again and most of the Arab states will have returned to Egypt, having realized that Egypt's approach to a just and comprehensive peace is the sound approach.

Question: You accompanied the late president on his historic trip. Had you, 6 years ago, been aware of the positive and negative consequences of the trip, would you have agreed to join the Egyptian delegation?

Answer: I did not hesitate for one moment to go on that historic trip, and today, aware of the consequences, I would not hesitate to do the same thing. It would have been easier not to go to Jerusalem and not to follow the difficult road, but my non-hesitation is due to the fact that I am fully convinced that the peace initiative serves Egyptian national interests, Arab national interests, and Palestinian national interests if we know how to exploit it and how to conduct the diplomatic battle.

Ghali Leaves for Switzerland, GDR 23 Nov
NC231221 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Excerpts] Cairo, 23 Nov (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, left Cairo for Bern today on the first leg of a tour to Switzerland and the GDR.

Ghali made a statement in which he said he will hold discussions with officials in both countries dealing with a number of current questions. Ghali will visit East Berlin on a working visit during which he will have discussions with officials on promoting bilateral relations.

Egyptian-Sudanese Radio Begins Transmission 1 Jan
NC241805 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1715 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 24 Nov (MENA) — The Egyptian and Sudanese Information Ministries have agreed that the Nile Valley Radio [idha'at wadi an-nil] will begin transmission as of 1 January. They also agreed that the Sudan Corner Radio from Cairo will be changed to the Nile Valley Radio and that its staff and engineering appliances will become the main organ of the new radio. This agreement was reached today at the conclusion of the official talks between both Information Ministries. The talks were headed on the Egyptian side by Safwat ash-Sharif, minister of state for information, who is currently visiting Khartoum, and for the Sudanese side by Information Minister Muhammad Khawjali Salihin. [Bureau records show Muhammad 'Uthman abu Saq to be Sudanese information minister] During the talks, it was decided that at the initial stagetransmission will be for 4 hours beginning at 0700 until 0800, and from 1700 until 2000.

Egyptian Papers To Be Allowed Into Iraq
LD250058 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2135 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] Cairo, 24 Nov (MENA) — The Cairo paper *AL-AHRAM* reported that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has given specific instructions permitting Egyptian papers to be allowed into Iraq immediately after completing the special arrangements necessary for this, including the technical transfers between the Iraqi national distribution corporation and the Egyptian press corporations. In a statement to be published in Friday's issue of *AL-AHRAM*, Iraqi Minister of Information Latif Nusayyif Jasim ad-Dulaymi described these steps as affirmation of the firm relations between Egypt and Iraq, and an expression of the continuing strong relations between the two peoples.

Military Communiques Issued on 22-24 Nov Operations

No 1,289

JN231740 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Communique No 1,289 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 23 November 1983]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Whenever the criminal Khomeyniites try their bad luck and continue their aggression against Iraq's territory and heroic people, they will only reap miserable defeat and heavy losses. The results of the activities in the various operational sectors yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. An enemy force last night tried to approach the positions of one of our frontline units in the northern operational sector. Our brave unit confronted the enemy force with all types of weapons. It succeeded in destroying the enemy force, killing 98 and wounding several. In other areas in the same sector, the enemy sustained 23 dead and several wounded. One of the enemy was captured and two vehicles and different quantities of weapons and military hardware were destroyed.

2. Our brave helicopters today carried out several daring combat operations against enemy positions and troop concentrations opposite our frontline positions in the northern operational sector. They scored direct effective hits and returned safely to base, God be praised.

3. One of our frontline units spotted several enemy men in front of its positions in the central operational sector. It attacked them with various weapons killing four and wounding several others. It also destroyed an infantry position.

4. One of our combat units succeeded in killing two enemy men opposite one of our frontline positions east of Basra.

5. One was killed in the Maysan operational sector.

6. The rancorous enemy today shelled the town of Mandali and its suburbs with artillery guns. The enemy shelling caused damage to civilian installations in the town.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 23 November 1983

No 1,290

JN241755 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Communique No 1,290 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 24 Novemebr 1983]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious forces continue their triumphant operations at the front in order to preserve Iraq's pride and glory and protect our people from Khomeyni's evil and aggressive designs. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. Using various weapons, our forward units opened fire at an enemy concentration opposite our positions in the northern sector of the front killing nine and wounding others. Our forces destroyed two guns, one medium machinegun, and two infantry positions. Those manning the infantry positions were killed. It has also been ascertained that the enemy force, which attacked our forward positions at the northern sector of the front the day before yesterday, lost 27 dead. Various weapons and hardware were captured, in addition to the losses mentioned in yesterday's communique. In the same sector, our combat patrol units found a number of light and medium guns and a quantity of serviceable equipment.

2. Sighting an enemy concentration opposite our positions in the central sector of the front, our foward units opened fire killing six, and destroying two infantry positions.

3. One was killed in the area east of Basra.

4. Two infantry positions were destroyed, and those manning them were killed in the Maysan sector.

5. The suspect Iranian regime's artillery today shelled Mandali and its environs, and the townships of Sayyid Sadqi and Khurmal, damaging a number of civilian establishments.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 24 November 1983.

Defense Ministry Call for Military Service

JN241817 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] The following is a local announcement:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Announcement No 54 of the year 1983, issued by the Defense Ministry's Mobilization and Statistics Department.

Those required for military service, born in 1965, must report to their recruitment centers within 7 days from 3 Novemeber 1983 until the end of working hours on 9 November 1983, instead of 2 January 1984, for reasons related to their service. These include the graduates of intermediate schools and the equivalent levels from the same category, and for those who have been asked to report for these centers on the same date. This announcement is an official call for all of the state's official and semi-official departments; and for the socialist, private, and mixed sectors so thay may inform their employees of its contents.

[Signed] The head of the Mobilization and Statistics Department.

Navy Commander Repeats Warning To Ships in Gulf

JN242115 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] The commander of the Iraqi naval and coastal defense forces has asserted that the strength of the Iraqi naval forces has

terrified the Iranian naval forces. In a statement to the INA Basra office, the commander said that this fear has forced the Iranian regime to enlist foreign mercenaries to command their naval units and take them to the Bandar-e Khomeyni port at a cost of $20,000. [as heard] The Iranians were reluctant to face our forces' ability to strike and destroy naval targets.

The commander said that the great epic which was recorded by the naval forces in coordination with the Air Force late last month has resulted in our forces' complete control of the operational area, and has proved their ability to destroy enemy targets. Our naval forces, he said, have refuted the Iranian regime's lies and deceptions regarding the alleged safe passage between Khark Island and Bandar-e Khomeyni when they destroyed six naval targets despite the enemy's security measures.

He recalled the 21 November heroic battle saying that it has expressed the close cooperation and splendid coordination between the naval and air forces. He said that seven naval targets were destroyed in an enemy convoy of ships which were heading toward Bandar-e Khomeyni, and that one enemy F-14 plane was shot down in a dogfight.

The commander said that the operation was carried out despite the enemy's protective measures which included gunboats, surveillance ships, helicopters, and air cover. He warned the companies and commercial ships against risking their ships and their crews, affirming that the Iraqi naval forces and mines will destroy any ship that may enter the area.

The commander pledged to President Saddam Husayn that he and his men will remain fighting men, standing firmly and with conviction to protect the great principles of the Ba'th Party, the Iraqi people, and their historical leadership. They will remain a bastion for the homeland and nation and will inflict more losses on the Iranian enemy until it responds to the calls of peace, and until the Iraqis realize final victory.

Cooperation Agreement Signed With USSR 23 Nov

JN232141 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] Iraq and the USSR today signed a new agreement to expand the USSR organizations' work in implementing development projects in the country.

Signing the agreement on the Iraqi side was Subhi Yasin, minister of industry and minerals; and on the USSR side Ryabov, CPSU Central Committee member and chief of the Foreign Economic Relations Department in the USSR State Planning Committee.

Heads of the two sides described the agreement as a step which will contribute to further promoting bilateral economic and technical cooperation to serve the common interests of the two friendly peoples.

USSR's Mordvinov Ends Visit, Departs 25 Nov

JN251036 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Nov (INA) — Mordvinov, deputy chairman of the USSR's State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, left Baghdad today at the end of a visit during which he participated in the meetings of the Iraqi-Soviet Joint Committee for Economic and Technical Cooperation.

He also met with officials at the trade and oil ministries, and discussed with them the ways of promoting bilateral economic and technical cooperation.

Jordanian, Iraqi Sides Hold Talks on Situation

JN231728 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Baghdad — Official talks between His Majesty King Husayn and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn began immediately after the king's arrival in Baghdad today at noon, with both the Iraqi and Jordanian sides attending. The talks dealt with the dangers facing the Arab nation in light of the recent developments in the region, particularly the barbaric massacres which the Palestinian people are facing in Tripoli camps and the conspiracies which are being perpetrated by some Arab parties in order to wipe out the Palestinian legitimacy which is represented in the PLO. The Jordanian and Iraqi sides stressed concern over the Palestinian legitimacy and absolute support for the independent Palestinian decisionmaking as well as the need to adopt a unanimous Arab stand in order to stop the Palestinian bloodshed and to put an end to the tragedy which the Palestinian people are living in northern Lebanon.

The two sides reviewed the situation on the Iraqi-Iranian front. President Saddam presented a detailed explanation of the military situation, emphasizing Iraq's ability to oppose the Iranian regime's aggressions. He highlighted the victory of the Iraqi soldiers in the recent battles in the Panjwin area in the northern sector of the front.

King Husayn expressed pride in the heroic battles of the Iraqi soldiers and people as well as their steadfast stand against the ambitions which are harbored against their land and honor, affirming his confidence in the victory of rightness and the defeat of falsehood.

The two sides touched on the Jordanian-Iraqi relations and affirmed the depth and strength of these relations. They also affirmed the continued coordination and cooperation between the two countries in order to serve and support Arab issues in all fields.

Ramadan, Badran Confer 24 Nov

JN240843 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Nov (INA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, received Mudar Badran, Jordanian Prime minister, here today. The two sides dis-

cussed bilateral relations in the various fields and the ways to bolster cooperation and coordinate stands toward the challenges facing the Arab nation. The Jordanian ambassador in Baghdad attended the meeting. Badran is accompanying King Husayn on his current visit to Baghdad, which began yesterday.

Sabri al-Banna's Followers Reportedly Expelled

JN241517 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] The London-based newspaper *ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* reported that Iraq has decided to close the office of Sabri al-Banna, Abu Nidal, in Baghdad. The office members and their families were deported from Iraq a few days ago. It is believed that they have left for Syria. Abu Nidal opened this office about 10 years ago following a dispute with Yasir 'Arafat and after the Fatah movement sentenced him to death in 1974 on charges of attempting to assassinate 'Arafat.

France Instrumental in Expulsion

NC241620 Paris AFP in English 1607 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Excerpts] Paris, Nov 24 (AFP) — Iraq has declared Palestinian terrorist Abu Nidal persona non grata and ordered his followers out of Baghdad, an informed source in the Iraqi capital said today. In a telephone interview, the source confirmed earlier reports that the Abu Nidal group, which once enjoyed the protection of Iraq, had been expelled from the country. Born of an early split within Palestine Liberation Organization chairman Yasir 'Arafat's al-Fatah movement, the Abu Nidal group has claimed anti-Israeli attacks in Europe and the killing of key Palestinian moderates.

A newspaper from the Gulf state of Bahrain, citing diplomatic sources in Baghdad, reported that Abu Nidal followers were seen loading a truck with their belongings after their office was shut.

Political observers here believed France had been instrumental in the Iraqi Government's change of attitude. President Saddam Husayn told the French press last month that Iraq had ended all aid to Abu Nidal, "financial or otherwise." The statement came at about the same time France reportedly delivered its advanced Super-Etendard attack planes to Iraq. Observers here said Iraq had grown increasingly chilly towards Abu Nidal as ties with France were strengthened. In need of financial and military aid from France in its three-year war with Iran, the Iraqi Government appeared in recent months more reluctant to play host to Abu Nidal.

It was not clear whether Abu Nidal himself was in Baghdad at the time of the expulsion order.

President Receives Turkish Envoy, Message

JN231354 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] President Saddam Husayn has received a message from Turkish President Kenan Evren dealing with bilateral relations and the situation in the region. Fahir Ilkel, Turkish minister of energy and natural resources, conveyed the message when the president received him this morning. The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; the president's secretary; and the Turkish ambassador in Baghdad.

Turkish Minister Leaves 23 Nov

JN231540 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1355 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Nov (INA) — 'Abd al-Min'im Hasan 'Alwan, Iraqi oil ministry under secretary, met here today with Fahir Ilkel, Turkish minister of energy and natural resources. The two sides discussed existing cooperation between Iraq and Turkey in the oil sphere and ways of promoting cooperation to serve the two countries' joint interests.

The Turkish minister left Baghdad this afternoon at the end of a visit to Iraq which lasted several days.

Cooperation Minutes Concluded With Pakistan

JN231543 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1350 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Nov (INA) — A joint cooperation minutes by the Iraqi-Pakistani committee for economic and technical cooperation was concluded here today. On the Iraqi side, Irrigation Minister 'Abd al-Wahhab Mahmud, and on the Pakistani side, Ghulam Ishaq Khan, minister of finance, commerce, and planning, signed the minutes. The minutes included clauses to develop economic, commercial, and technical cooperation between the two countries for the next phase.

Pakistani Minister Departs 23 Nov

JN232054 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Ghulam Ishaq Khan, Pakistani finance, commerce, and planning minister, and his delegation left Baghdad for home this evening at the end of a visit to the country. Khan headed his country's side to the meetings of third session of the Iraqi-Pakistani committee for economic, technical, and trade cooperation which opened in Baghdad on 19 November.

Ramadan Receives GDR Official 23 Nov

JN231640 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, this morning received Dieter Albrecht, deputy chairman of the GDR State Planning Commission. During the meeting, which was attended by the GDR ambassador in Baghdad, the two sides discussed the aspects of future cooperation between the two countries in all fields and the role of the GDR companies in the implementation of several Iraqi development projects.

Progressive National Front Meets 24 Nov
JN241454 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1200 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] The General Secretariat of the Progressive National and Patriotic Front this morning held a meeting under Comrade Na'im Haddad, member of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party Regional Command and secretary general of the Front. During the meeting, Comrade Haddad reviewed the points that were discussed by the Front's higher committee during yesterday's meeting under Comrade 'Izzat Ibrahim, deputy secretary of the Ba'th Party's National Command. These points are related to the Front's role during the upcoming phase, developing the struggle of our heroic people and their national forces, and mobilizing potentials in order to oppose the Zionist and imperialist designs and conspiracies.

During the meeting, means of strenghtening and deepening the Front's alliance as well as coordinating the action of the Front's committees in the governorates, particularly at the current phase during which our heroic people are opposing the aggression of the tyrannical Khomeyniite clique in defense of the homeland's honor and sovereignty, were discussed. The necessary arrangements for the convocation of the Front's upcoming general conference and the Ba'th Party's program in the meetings of the Front's General Secretariat were also discussed.

King Husayn, Delegation Return From Iraq 24 Nov
JN241123 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] Amman — His Majesty King Husayn returned to Amman today after a 2-day visit to fraternal Iraq during which he held intensive talks with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. The talks dealt with the dangers facing the Arab region, the dimensions of the exposed plot against the Palestinian people and the Palestinian legitimacy, and the means of adopting a unanimous Arab stand on what is being perpetrated against the Arab nation. The talks also dealt with the situation on the Iraqi front, the results of the Iranian regime's aggression against the Panjwin sector, and the victory achieved by the Iraqi Army in repulsing and crushing this Iranian aggression.

Arab Leagues' Klibi Arrives in Amman 23 Nov
JN232003 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi arrived in Amman this evening. Following his arrival, he made a statement to PETRA in which he said he is going to pursue consultation with His Majesty King Husayn concerning the dangerous development in the Palestinian arena and will discuss the preparations which are being carried out by the Arab League Secretariat General for the convocation of the upcoming Arab summit. Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim and a number of Foreign Ministry officials received him at the airport.

Meets Husayn, Makes Statement
JN242105 Amman Televison Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at An-Nadwah Palace this evening Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi.

Upon leaving Amman today, following a 1-day visit to Jordan as part of a tour of a number of Arab states, Klibi said that his talks with King Husayn were important and useful. He said that these talks focused on the current incidents in the region and the efforts being exerted to save the PLO and to enable it to resume its struggle for the sacred cause. Klibi added that these talks also touched on the Arab summit and that the Arab League General Secretariat is holding consultations to fix a date for the convocation of this summit. The talks also included international issues and the relations among the Arab states. Klibi praised His Majesty King Husayn's vision and his wise analysis of all the topics that were discussed. He said that these topics will be useful for the Arab League General Secretariat. Our correspondent has the following interview with the Arab League secretary general:

[Begin videotape][Correspondent] Mr Secretary General, you are welcome. Regarding the Iraqi incidents and what is taking place in northern Lebanon, Tripoli, what are the Arab reactions to these incidents int he states that you have visited?

[Klibi] There are two issues; first the Iraq-Iran war, which is an old or chronic issue. This issue causes us pain, because a war is raging between two Islamic states. The causes of this war should have been overcome through other means, but the war was imposed on one of our states and we find that it is our duty to support it, express solidarity with it, and translate this solidarity into practical terms. Regarding the incidents in northern Lebanon, they are transient incidents. I hope that these incidents can be contained as soon as possible due to the good efforts being exerted by a number of our states. The Arab League General Secretariat also contributed to these efforts. We in the General Secretariat do not announce our efforts, because we believe that the most important thing is the results and not propaganda. I have noticed that there are some comments in the Jordanian press on the General Secretariat' role. I believe that the chief editors can acquaint themselves with this role through direct contacts. We also can acquaint our brother journalists with the General Secretariat's continued and resolute efforts. These efforts are part of the General Secretariat's natural duties. Our information indicates that an agreement will be reached soon — an agreement that will contain this problem and place it on the course of a political solution from which it should not have deviated.

[Correspondent] Mr Secretary General, regarding the Arab summit, do you think that this summit will be convened in November 1983?

[Klibi] Usually, I do not like predictions regarding such issues, but as the official in charge in the General Secretariat, I work on the basis that this annual summit is a very important institution which plays a basic role regarding the joint Arab action. Therefore, it is my duty to work for the periodic convocation of this summit without delay or postponement.

[Correspondent] In you opinion, Mr Secretary General, does the Arab summit represent an urgent need to confront the deteriorating situation in the region?

[Klibi] I think that the summit has a basic function under normal circumstances, but if new and serious circumstances occur in the Arab arena, then this means that the summit must be held as soon as possible in order to overcome these emergency circumstances.

[Correspondent] Thank you Mr Mr Secretary General. [end videotape]

Klibi was seen off at Amman airport by Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim.

Current Mediation Efforts in Damascus Discussed
JN232045 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] Before the liquidation of the legitimate Palestinian leadership and the destruction of Tripoli, which is diametrically opposed to this regime, could be completed, mediation efforts reached a full circle in Damascus from yesterday, through attempts to seek an end to the bloody crisis which exists between

the Syrian regime on one hand, and the PLO, represented by its leaders, combat cadres, and its supporters, the sons of the steadfast Lebanese city on the other.

There is no doubt that the Arab and non-Arab mediators realize the dimensions of the Syrian stand which is determined to wrest the independent Palestinian decisionmaking by force from the Palestinian leadership, no matter how much the Syrian regime tries to conceal this stand behind Palestinian agents and apostates. From this premise, efforts by the Gulf mediators and those from the Nonaligned Movement must focus on changing the Syrian stand if there is really a desire to safeguard the legitimacy of the Palestinian leadership and the independence of the Palestinian decisionmaking. Otherwise, the Syrian insistence on settling the issue by the force of arms will make the delegations carrying out Arab and international mediations witnesses to the assassination of the independent Palestinian decisionmaking and the independent Palestinian will.

There is also no doubt that the mediators clearly realize the two basic objectives of the Syrian regime in its mad war in northern Lebanon. These objectives aim at imposing Syrian control over the PLO and confiscating its independent decisionmaking, and liquidating the opposition in Tripoli. Keeping this in mind, the solution must be based on rescuing northern Lebanon from the claws of the barbaric aggression which the Syrian regime is leading and on delivering the Palestinians and Lebanese from these inhuman massacres. This must be done if the mediators are to achieve results.

We hope that the mediators who are exerting efforts in Damascus will not be less courageous than the Saudi crown prince who clearly announced that those who are shelling women and children in northern Lebanon are most despicable and more than traitors. However, the Arab and international efforts may seek to satisfy the Syrian regime, in one way or the other, by temporarily halting its massacres of Palestinians and Lebanese in Tripoli without giving too much through to the Syrian regime's overt priorities of liquidating the PLO, confiscating its independent decisionmaking, and imposing control on the Lebanese city of Tripoli with the same methods that the Syrian regime used against the Syrian city of Hama, but we believe that this will be a matter which the mediators will not accept for themselves or for the parties which sent them to Damascus. The required solution is a permanent solution and not a temporary one. The required cease-fire is not one that will hold for some days but one that will last forever. The rescue operation must include the Palestinian and Lebanese sides. Only then will the efforts of the mediations succeed. Otherwise the Syrian regime will proceed with the implementation of its objective of occupying Tripoli and of imposing its control on the Palestinians and Lebanese.

AD-DUSTUR Urges Arab Inquiry Into Tripoli Events

JN250906 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0520 GMT 25 Nov 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Following the Cease-fire in North Lebanon," *AD-DUSTUR* says: A few hours after Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal announced the achievement of the cease-fire in north Lebanon and the cessation of fighting in Tripoli, thus saving this Arab city from bloodbath and destruction, Yasir 'Arafat warned against the intensive massing of Syrian, Libyan, and dissident forces around Tripoli. This may be explained as a preparation for new attack and renewal of fighting. Thus, after we hoped that the massacre in north Lebanon would stop, we began to worry that the difficult and continuing Arab efforts being exerted to stop the bloodshed and prevent more killing may collapse. This is because the conspiratorial elements against the PLO and Tripoli have not yet been convinced to stop the conspiracy.

The assertions made by Syria and the dissidents about their acceptance of the cease-fire and their readiness to use political dialogue to solve the differences seem to be a throwing of dust in the eyes in order to gain time and claim flexibility. But the real intention is aimed at undermining the Arab mediation efforts and bypassing their achievements. The Syrian officials' rejection of dialogue with the PLO Executive Committee Chairman, while talking with Washington everyday, and their rejection of Yasir 'Arafat's logical demands as a prelude to the departure of the fighters from Tripoli are a blow dealt to Arab aspirations. They present evidence to Arab mediators that the Syrian regime regrettably still insists on implementing its plan to eliminate the PLO, even if this will result in destroying Tripoli and displacing its people.

Hence, in order not to fall into the trap, we feel that it will be necessary for the Arab parties shouldering the responsibility of mediation to immediately adopt all the necessary measures to firmly establish and protect the cease-fire through Arab observers. These Arab parties must also prevent the renewal of the attack against Tripoli, which is still burying its dead and nursing its wounds. The massacres of the Al-Baddawi and Nahr al-Barid Refugee Camps remind us of the Sabra and Shatila massacres at the hands of the Israelis and their agents. Under pressure from international public opinion, the Israelis were forced to form a committee to inquire into the Sabra and Shatila massacres. This resulted in the condemnation and dismissal of the Israelis responsible for the crime, the foremost being the defense minister.

Do justice and the Arab people's right to know the facts not call for forming a neutral Arab inquiry committee with the mission of identifying the parties responsible for striking at the Palestinian refugee camps, shelling Tripoli with rockets, killing thousands of innocent people, and planting terrorism and destruction in north Lebanon? The bloodshed by the martyrs and the wounded in north Lebanon calls for imposing justice and punishment on those who perpetrated these crimes without mercy, sympathy, or conscience. The denunciation of those who attacked the innocent people, tampered with the Arab nation's honor and dignity, and degraded its reputation before the people of the world will be a deterrent to those who allow themselves to be seduced into violating the Arab consensus, disregarding its values and customs, and attacking its Palestine cause.

Relations With Iran Severed, Libya Frozen

NC231328 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] Today's Cabinet meeting ended at 1400. It has been learned from a government source that Lebanon has decided to sever its diplomatic relations with Iran and to freeze diplomatic relations with Libya.

Minister Ibrahim Halahah raised the issue of the disappearance of Imam Musa as-Sadr in Libya and demanded that relations be severed and not frozen.

The Cabinet demanded that all Palestinian fighters be ousted from Tripoli and leave the city to its people. It also discussed the issue of Dayr al-Qamar and ways of lifting the siege on its people and evacuees there.

At-Turk Receives Envoys

NC241243 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] Ambassador Fu'ad at-Turk, secretary general of the Foreign Ministry, today received the charges d'affaires of Iran, Libya, and the YAR.

Ambassador at-Turk officially informed the Iranian charge d'affaires that Lebanon has broken off its relations with Iran. He informed the Libyan charge d'affaires that Lebanon has frozen its relations with Libya; the charge d'affaires was given 3 days to leave Lebanon. Ambassador at-Turk informed the YAR charge d'affaires that relations with his country remain normal.

Official Sources On Relations

NC241804 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1720 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] Official Lebanese sources explained today that the severance of diplomatic relations with Iran and the freezing of relations with Libya are due to the illegal presence of forces from the two countries on Lebanese territory and to their non-response to Lebanon's request that they withdraw their forces from its territory.

The sources added that one of the reasons for the severance of relations with Iran is that for over 7 months it has refrained from giving an answer regarding the nomiation of a new Lebanese ambassador. According to international norms, Iran's abstention from approving the appointment of a new Lebanese ambassador to it is explained as a severance of relations on its part. Lebanon waited before reacting to Iran's stand. The sources explained that Lebanon hopes that normal relations will be restored between it and the two countries.

Lebanon is a friend of all. It is the victim and not the aggressor. It hopes that the Arab and Islamic states will be its friends and will help the government end the Lebanese tragedy.

Cabinet Calls for Palestinians To Leave Country

NC231550 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Telephone dispatch by correspondent Joe Sa'adah at the Presidential Palace 23 November — recorded]

[Text] The Cabinet concluded its weekly meeting at 1400 today. At 1500, Shafiq Munayminah, acting secretary general of the Cabinet, distributed an official statement that said:

At the outset of the meeting, his excellency the president briefed the Cabinet on the results of his visit, on which he was accompanied by his excellency the prime minister, to the Saudi Arabian Kingdom last Saturday and Sunday. His excellency the president expressed satisfaction with the positive results of the visit which constituted part of the series of contacts he has been making to prepare for the second phase of the Geneva conference and to rescue Lebanon from all the tragedies it is suffering, including the current fighting in the north, specifically — in Tripoli, that is exposing the country to more danger and complications.

President al-Jumayyil thanked the Saudi Arabian Kingdom and its king, His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, for their continuing support for Lebanon. Prime Minister al-Wazzan lauded the good response the Lebanese delegation received on all the issues it raised in the various domains, emphasizing the importance of the continuing absolute and sincere Saudi support for Lebanon. President al-Jumayyil then referred to the independence day anniversary which came this year while Lebanon is still not enjoying complete independence and while parts of its territory are still under occupation. President al-Jumayyil praised the Lebanese people's determination to achieve liberation and complete independence irrespective of the sacrifices. President al-Jumayyil then spoke about the situation from which Tripoli is suffering and the losses in lives and property it is experiencing as a result of the factional fighting there — a situation that gravely harms Lebanon's interests and the Palestinian cause.

President al-Jumayyil then referred to the arbitrary and inhuman behavior resulting from the Israeli measures in southern Lebanon. He denounced the irresponsible actions and stands that hinder the arrival of aid, foodstuffs, and clothing to relieve the displaced and afflicted persons in the various Lebanese areas that are suffering bitterly from this condemnable behavior.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan spoke about the security situation in the various Lebanese areas and presented the result of the local and foreign contacts made on the events in Tripoli so as to ensure a cease-fire and the safety of the citizens and their property. Prime Minister al-Wazzan also spoke about the [government] departments' activities in providing relief and fuel and other day-to-day living requirements.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan also reviewed the contacts made regarding the Israeli measures in the south with a view to lifting the restrictions imposed on the citizens there. He also reviewed the plan of action to be adopted in this connection. He denounced these measures which are inconsistent with the citizens' rights in their homeland and which add to the harmful aspects of the

Israeli occupation. He pointed to the uprising by the Lebanese in general and the people in the south in particular against these measures, saying that this uprising is an expression that should be understood by all those concerned in order to avoid complications and to prevent the matter from getting worse.

The Cabinet discussed all the current political and security issues, including those related to the condition of the displaced persons and the schools as well as the difficult living conditions. The necessary instructions have been given to the departments concerned to solve the problems so as to facilitate the affairs of the citizens and to ease their difficulties. The Cabinet also pondered the events in Tripoli and its suburbs and the dimensions and effects this situation, if it continues, will have especially on the people of Tripoli. The Cabinet reaffirmed its previous stand, reminding the armed Palestinians of their 1982 pledge to leave Lebanon and not to return to it. Therefore, the Cabinet requests all the armed Palestinian forces to abide by their pledge and to leave Tripoli and Lebanon. Finally, the Cabinet reviewed the matters on its agenda and adopted appropriate resolutions regarding them.

Junblatt Cited on PLO Struggle, Geneva Talks

NC232305 Paris AFP in English 2259 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] Brussels, Nov 23 (AFP) — The leader of Lebanon's Druze community, Walid Junblatt, called today for a peaceful settlement to the inter-Palestinian fighting to save the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli. "Everyone ought to meet outside of Tripoli. It is intolerable that Tripoli should pay the price of dissensions inside the PLO," said Mr Junblatt, who is here to attend an international socialist meeting. "In principle, the PLO must be saved. If the PLO destroys itself, nothing will be left of the Palestinian people. The Fatah's troubles after the departure of (PLO chief) Yasir 'Arafat from Beirut last year have not been resolved. It is disastrous for the future of the PLO," Mr. Junblatt added. The Druze leader, who also heads Lebanon's Progressive Socialist Party, said that the Lebanese national reconciliation conference would resume in Geneva after Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil completes talks with the U.S. Government, provided "there is no military escalation" in the meantime.

Mr. Junblatt denied rumors that he might meet the leader of Israel's Labor Party, Shimon Peres, who is also attending the Socialist International meeting. "Mr Peres has not denounced the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. I do not see any reason to meet him for the moment," Mr Junblatt said. Mr. Junblatt also deplored "the total alignment of the Al-Jumayyil government with the United States." "Lebanon has become like West Berlin. We could have kept our independence, but today we are paying the price of the policy of alignment," he said. Mr Junblatt said the Lebanese-Israeli peace treaty signed earlier this year "brought about the destruction of Lebanon."

"We are ready to agree with Israel on the principle of peace on its northern border, but we can not do more than de-militarize southern Lebanon," Mr Junblatt said. Mr Junblatt also reaffirmed the need for close ties between Lebanon and Syria. "Syrian troops were invited by the Lebanese Government in 1976. Lebanon is an Arab country and it can never disavow its special ties with Syria. It is a historical fact," Mr Junblatt said.

Junblatt on Weinberger Statement Against Syria

JN241450 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] Brussels —Walid Junblatt, leader of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party, has rejected the recent statements by U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger in which he accused Syria of being indirectly responsible for the explosion at the U.S. Marines command in Beirut. Junblatt, who is currently in Brussels to attend the meetings of the Socialist International, affirmed that the Syrian presence in Lebanon is legal. He said: The Syrians came to Lebanon at the invitation of the Lebanese Government, and furthermore, they are Arabs. He added that there will always be contacts between Lebanon and Syria, particularly concerning the confrontation of the Israeli enemy. He reaffirmed the rejection of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement of submission by all the Lebanese progressive and nationalist forces.

VOAL on Al-Jumayyil's U.S. Visit, Arab Summit

NC241843 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Excerpts] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil this morning received French ambassador to Lebanon Fernand-Rene Wibaux. Theydiscussed the contacts the French Government is making to consolidate the cease-fire in northern Lebanon. Meanwhile, preparations are underway for President al-Jumayyil's visit to the United States. Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim met with U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Reginald Bartholomew. They discussed the itinerary of President al-Jumayyil's visit to Washington. The visit is expected to take place during the first week of next month. Dr Elie Salim has also received a telephone call from Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi. Minister Salim communicated to Klibi Lebanon's desire to have the Arab summit, which was scheduled to convene at the end of November, postponed because of the prevailing situation in Lebanon.

Confusion Regarding Aircraft Raid Explained

NC231238 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1203 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] We just received the following:

The security situation suffered a setback after we reported that the shelling in the mountain stopped. The report just received says there is violent shelling on the Army positions in Suq al-Gharb. At the same time, there are unidentified aircraft flying over the area. This is what has caused the confusion, since some thought that the aircraft are bombing in the mountain and in other areas. What has now become clear to the security sources is that there is concentrated shelling on the Army positions in Suq al-Gharb. This is accompanied by the overflying of unidentified planes. This means that there was no air bombing or raids.

Marines Alerted After Booby-trapped Car Warning

NC231409 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1408 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] The U.S. Marines were today put in a state of maximum alert and U.S. planes flew over Beirut. The reason, according to the spokesman for the U.S. Marines contingent, is that the Marines had received a warning about the possibility of there being a booby-trapped car. This necessitated the institution of a state of maximum alert in the ranks of the Marines. U.S. F-14 planes flew over Beirut in reconnaissance sorties.

VOL Says Israel, PLO Exchange Prisoners

NC240558 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] An Israeli military spokesman said this morning that 1,000 Palestinian prisoners have been released from Ansar camp in the south in return for the release of 6 Israeli prisoners, who were released by the PLO and who are on their way to Israel now.

Captives in South Released

NC241416 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1330 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Excerpt] In an unexpected move, which it thought would deflate the popular wrath against the Zionist occupation in the south, the government of Yitzhaq Shamir today released all the Lebanese and Palestinian captives that were detained at the Ansar, Ansariyah, and (Wadi Juhannam) detention camps. The occupation authorities at noon today closed the detention camps following the departure of the estimated 5,000 captives, removed all the traces of the three detention camps by bulldozers, and embarked on paving the roads with asphalt.

Withdrawal Expected

NC241802 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] Security sources in southern Lebanon expect the release of the prisoners from Ansar detention camp to be followed by a sudden withdrawal of the Zionist enemy's forces to the boundary of the Al-Litani River. People arriving from the south have said that large vehicles were seen today in An-Nabatiyah transporting enemy tanks in the direction of the occupied territory. Arrivals from the Jazzin area also reported that the enemy has regrouped his forces and that these forces are dismantling their military positions in the same way they did before their partial withdrawal from the mountain.

Syrian Forces Down Israeli Drone 24 Nov

NC241524 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] According to information received by the Voice of Lebanon, the Syrian defense this afternoon shot down a pilotless Israeli reconnaissance plane as it was flying over the Al-Biqa' between Al-Manarah and (As-Salibi). The Syrian forces transported the plane's wreckage to one of their positions.

Israeli Troops Heading Toward Port of Sidon

OW232348 Hong Kong AFP in English 2318 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] Beirut, Nov 24 (AFP) — Israeli troop movements were taking place Wednesday night in southern Lebanon amid the biggest security precautions since Israel invaded Lebanon in June 1982, the Lebanese Government Radio reported. It said dozens of tanks, armoured vehicles, troop transports, and trucks were seen rolling toward the port of Sidon (Saida) 40 kms (25 miles) south of here. Israeli soldiers had clamped down a curfew in the town of Nabatiyah and stopped all traffic on the coast road. Soldiers erected barricades hastily at a number of points in southern Lebanon and motorized patrols appeared, the broadcast added. Israeli planes had flown low over the Suq al Gharb mountains earlier in the day, north of the Israeli occupation zone, as Lebanese troops and Druze militia fired at each other in that district.

Four Lebanese were wounded Wednesday when Israeli soldiers opened fire on a stone-hurling mob trying to cross the Awwali River bridge. All other crossing points into the Israeli zone had been closed since last Thursday to guard against suicide bomb attacks on Israeli garrisons. The troop movements also followed reports from Geneva that Israel was about to release 3,500 Palestinian prisoners detained at Al-Ansar in southern Lebanon in exchange for six Israeli soldiers captured by the Palestinian Al-Fatah fedayeen.

Israelis Close All Roads in South 24 Nov

NC240740 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] An Israeli officer stationed with his forces on the Az-Zahrani bridge stated that the main and branch roads in the south will remain closed until this evening. He asked the drivers and passengers of vehicles as well as pedestrians to return home. Movement in the south has been paralyzed because of the closure of roads, especially the Sidon-Tyre-Az-Zahrani- An-Nabatiyah road. No civilian or military persons were allowed to pass. Maintenance work at the Az-Zahrani refinery has stopped because the workers and fuel tankers have not been able to get there. Refining work is proceeding normally.

Four Lebanese Wounded by Israeli Soldiers

NC231437 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] Citing their correspondents in Sidon, foreign news agencies today carried extensive details about the practices of Israeli soldiers on the roadblock at Sidon's entrance. In a lengthy report, AFP reported that angry Israeli soldiers opened indiscriminate gunfire as hundreds of people were waiting for their turn to cross the roadblock. Four Lebanese citizens were wounded. Many youths retaliated by throwing stones at the Israelis. The Israeli forces today also prevented fishermen from fishing along the

Sidon shore. They opened fire on a fisherman's boat, putting the boat out of commission. The boat owner was not injured.

AFP Report on Shootings

NC231430 Paris AFP in English 1405 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, Nov 23 (AFP) — Four Lebanese were wounded today when Israeli soldiers opened fire on a crowd of pedestrians trying to cross the Al-Awwali bridge, Israeli's defense line in southern Lebanon, correspondents in the region reported. There was panic as the shots rang out, they said. Isreali troops swung at Lebanese with rifle butts and the crowd hurled rocks in a 30-minute melee. There has been unusual congestion at the one authorized passage across the Al-Awwali line since new Israeli security measures took effect last Thursday. Police said Israel feared a new attack on its occupying forces from across the Al-Awwali bridge. Thousands of Lebanese must cross the line daily in both directions to work.

Soldier Wounded in Bomb Attack on French Patrol

NC231410 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1330 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] An unidentified person hurled a bomb at a French patrol that was passing under Zuqaq al-Balat bridge, wounding one soldier. French high-ranking officers went to the scene of the incident to investigate.

Amal's Birri Criticizes French Military Action

PM241601 Paris LE MATIN in French 19-20 Nov 83 p 2

[Jean-Paul Kauffmann dispatch: "What Has Happened Is Called a Massacre"]

[Excerpt] Beirut, Friday 18 — Amal, led by lawyer Nabih Birri, at present on a tour of Arab capitals, is playing the card of legality completely. 'Akif Haydar, the movement's number two, agreed to meet with us. This former Lebanese Army colonel is regarded as a moderate politician. He spoke very good French and made no secret of the fact that he has always regarded our country as "Lebanon's friend." But things have changed since Thursday, according to him. "What has just happened in Ba'labakk is a very serious thing. France is now behaving exactly like the Israelis. We have been all too accustomed to their preventive raids against the Lebanese population. And France rightly condemned those actions. Today it is behaving in the same way. What will it do in the future if Israel does it again? It will no longer be able to condemn it." 'Akif Haydar thinks that the French Government has lost "considerable influence": "I do not know what internal reasons prompted that intervention. In any case France has overstepped its role within the multinational role; it is now no longer impartial."

The reports which have reached Amal's number two in Beirut seem to indicate that "innocent civilians" were victims of the French raid. "It is impossible for me to give you a figure at present. In any case what has happened is called a massacre." 'Akif Haydar thinks that France is "now following the U.S. lead." "We thought it was playing a role independent from that of Washington in the region. Since Ba'labakk that is no longer true. We have no intention of entering into a war against the Multinational Force. But you must realize that there is now great unrest among the Shi'ite population." The Amal leader added: "We have taken over the Palestinians' role. When an attack was perpetrated somewhere in Europe or the Near East, it was they who were accused. Today it is the Shi'ites. We have in turn become scapegoats."

Amal Claims Only 1 Death From French Raid

NC241616 Paris AFP in English 1553 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] Beirut, Nov 24 (AFP) — The French air raid last week on the pro-Iranian Shi'ite Amal Islamic barracks near Ba'labakk resulted in only one death, according to Amal leaders here and in Ba'labakk. They said the low casualty figure was because Amal Islamic leader Husayn Musawi had taken exceptional defence measures, calling on his followers to leave their usual positions in the wake of the Israeli air attack on the region the day before. (In Paris last Friday, reliable sources said 50 people were killed in the raid, but when he appeared on television Monday, French Defence Minister Charles Hernu gave no casualty figures.) Leaders of the Amal movement led by Nabih Birri told newsmen who went to Ba'labakk that the barracks were virtually deserted when the French planes struck. According to Amal sources, one person was killed in the raid and two were wounded. The Beirut Daily *L'ORIENT-LE JOUR* reported Saturday that two persons — a Lebanese and an Iranian — were killed and five slightly wounded.

Pro-Iran Groups To Hold Demonstration in Beirut

NC250946 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] Extremist pro-Iran groups will stage a demonstration immediately after the Friday prayers in denunciation of the government's decision to sever diplomatic relations with Iran. It is feared that the demonstrators may carry out chaotic acts and disturb security.

Al-Wazzan Opens Information Center 25 Nov

NC250940 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan has called for modern and advanced Lebanese information to serve as the strongest and sharpest weapon in the rebuilding of the country on a sound and correct basis. In an improvised speech he delivered at the inauguration of the information center of the National Information Agency and the Information Bank at the Directorate of Lebanese Studies and Publications in the Information Ministry, Prime Minister al-Wazzan said: We have had enough of the existence of destructive weapons in the hands of the people. However, we long for keeping weapons in the hands of the authority alone — the authority which shoulders the responsibility of defending the homeland and the citizen. Information Minister Roger Shaykhani delivered a speech in which he spoke

about the fast progress made by the Information Ministry despite the difficult and delicate circumstances through which Lebanon is passing.

Information Ministry Director General Dr Munaf Mansur then delivered a speech in which he pointed out that the Information Ministry adopts the correct scientific information method at a time when Lebanon is being drowned by chaos. He said that the Greater Lebanon radio plan will be completed next month. Dr Mansur explained the achievements made on the information level and praised the contributions of the information department in the ministry.

Franjiyah Interviewed by Saudi Paper 'UKAZ

PM221711 Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 17 Nov 83 p 12

[Interview with former President Sulayman Franjiyah by unnamed *'UKAZ* correspondent in Geneva — date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: It is observed that your contacts with the official Lebanese delegation [in Geneva] have been positive, in contrast to your allies in the National Salvation Front [NSF], who were very reserved in views within the front.

Answer: I hope that people do not go too far in their interpretations. The NSF went to Geneva with a united stand, and that unity will remain until Lebanon is rescued from its current catastrophe.

Question: If that is the case, is it not better for the participants in the dialogue to discuss one single issue, which is how to liberate the land, instead of getting bogged down in the problems of constitutional reforms and defining Lebanon's identity?

Answer: I believe that there is no room for discussing every issue separately, because all the problems are interlinked. As you will have noticed, the agenda has condensed all these problems. In fact the item relating to the 17 May agreement [with Israel] deals with the question of liberation. Furthermore, we cannot overlook an existing fact, that is, those who still rely on Israel and consider it the only power ready and able to liberate Lebanon from the alien presence. I do not understand what they mean by alien presence. Of course, we cannot ignore those people just because they are not prepared to see the reality rationally and with an open mind. On the contrary, bigotry dominates their thinking. We must once again admit that the war which will soon complete its seventh year has created deep cracks in Lebanese society and differences in the concepts or rather the priorities of liberation. For this reason concentration has been placed on rebuilding the internal front, because once this is achieved the Israeli position in the south becomes very difficult. Also, our Syrian brothers will withdraw unconditionally and as soon as the Israelis evacuate Lebanese territory.

Question: But do you believe that Israel will allow that to happen?

Answer: We realize that, since 1975 and even before, on the basis of the "divide and rule" principle, Israel has been pursuing the philosophy that aims at sabotaging any Lebanese trend toward national reconciliation. It is this situation in particular that prompts our persistence on reaching an agreement within the internal front on common concepts, bases, and principles. I believe that we and Israel are in a race against time. I also believe that what the southern inhabitants are doing at present is a confirmation of Lebanese unity, although unfortunately some of the Lebanese factions described the recent heroic operation against the Israeli forces in Tyre as a "terrorist attack."

I do not think that we can win this race if we do not all agree on nullifying the 17 May agreement, which simply means absorbing Lebanon politically and economically. If achieved, that would cause a major emigration not only from southern Lebanon but from all Lebanon, and thus Kissinger's plan to empty Lebanon of its original inhabitants and plant the Palestinians in their place will be realized.

Question: We must ask another relevant question: Do you believe that Syria will allow this to happen?

Answer: I absolutely refuse to regard Syia in the same way as Israel as far as Lebanon is concerned. We are well aware of the Israeli designs on our country. Do the Syrians need agricultural land, of which they are known to have plenty? Do they need manpower when we know that Syria for the last quarter of a century has been providing Lebanon with manpower? Do they need our water, when we all know that no waters run northwards except the Al-'Asi river, which nature chose to be a joint river? Do they need our electricity, when we buy electricity from them? Do they need an economic outlet, when it is we who need them as an economic outlet? But matters are quite different when we look at the Israelis, who are trying for all Lebanon's resources — manpower, economic resources, and water — and have plans ready for implementation.

Some Israeli officials have frankly admitted that their aim in Lebanon was dual: to absorb the Palestinians militarily and the Lebanese economically.

Question: But it is the Syrian presence that is delaying the Israeli withdrawal, according to what some Lebanese circles say. Some Lebanese officials have even said this publicly.

Answer: First I would like to make it clear that, if it were not for the Syrian presence in Lebanon, the 17 May agreement would have been put into effect immediately and we would have seen Lebanon gradually turn into a real Israeli protectorate. I can imagine that if it were not for that presence the Israelis would have done even more.

In my view the Syrian presence in Lebanon has been in the interest of the Lebanese Government, which could have played this card successfully.

Question: If your allies in the NSF demand that the president be a Muslim — that is, a non-Maronite, as has been customary since independence — what will your attitude be?

Answer: What matters to me is that the president should primarily be a Lebanese; I am not interested in the community to which he belongs.

Question: At present Beirut is facing the largest-ever U.S. naval military concentration. What are your expectations, and is it true that Israel will launch a strike against Syria with U.S. support?

Answer: I would like to tell the Americans: enough mistakes. It is their policies, entirely biased in favor of Israel, that create this hostile atmosphere against them. If they really want to seek revenge, they should take revenge on those who formulated these policies and not on those who have, in their own way, objected to these policies.

The Americans came to Lebanon to perform a specific task which we all know, but the U.S. Administration deviated from this task and projected the Marines force as if it were an occupation force. All I wish is that the United States would review its policy before the earthquake takes place. The Middle East is in turmoil now, and I do not think that the United States with its present policy can control the situation. On the contrary, it is hastening the earthquake.

Mufti Khalil Urges IDF Withdrawal, U.S. Support
NC231723 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] During his 2-hour meeting with U.S. Ambassador Reginald Bartholomew today, His Eminence Mufti Shaykh Hasan Khalid raised the question of the Israeli measures in the south and asked that they be stopped and that security withdrawal of the Israeli Army from Lebanese territory be expedited.

Mufti Khalid drew the attention of the U.S. ambassador to the fact that the Lebanese people are looking forward to U.S. overtures to positively settle the Lebanese crisis in a way that will return security and peace to their homeland as quickly as possible.

Soviet Envoy Returns to Beirut 23 November
NC231747 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] Aleksandr Soldatov, Soviet ambassador to Lebanon, has expressed the hope that the Lebanese will reach a national accord at the Geneva conference as soon as possible.

He said: We are eager to see the conference succeed. Soldatov said this on his arrival in Beirut after a 3-month absence in Moscow.

Merchant Ship Collides With U.S. Navy Ship
NC231954 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] A spokesman for the U.S. Navy today said that a Lebanese registered merchant ship sank today after colliding with a supply ship of the U.S. Navy. The spokesman added that the ship *Diana*, which is a small ship believed to be loaded with timber, collided at dawn today with a U.S. ship about 55 km southwest of Beirut. All five members of the merchant ship's crew have been rescued and have been treated for injuries and bruises.

Shi'ite Leader To Stage Sit-in Protest
NC242208 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Excerpt] His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams ad-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, this evening announced that he will start a sit-in at the Al-'Amiliyah Mosque in Beirut as of tomorrow, Friday, until Saturday noon, in denunciation, protest, and condemnation of the Israeli practices on the crossing points and entrances to the south — practices that involve humiliation and suppression of the southern citizens that deprive them of the simplest human rights. His eminence said that this sit-in is a step on the path of the peaceful civil resistance that was declared on the day of 'Ashura' that aims at increasing the level of international pressure on Israel to halt its practices and at drawing the attention of the world public opinion to these practices and urging it to support the Lebanese in getting rid of this despicable occupation.

VOL Cites Reports on Al-Asad's Illness
NC250702 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] The CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY reported yesterday that two Lebanese doctors had taken part in the treatment of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. The Beirut-based agency cited diplomatic sources as saying that the Syrian president suffered from heart trouble and poor blood circulation due to high blood sugar. President al-Asad has been subjected to intensive medical observation and checkups. The Syrian president suffers from all these health problems due to exhaustion resulting from huge responsibilities and sleeplessness. These ailments, the agency said, are also affecting his brain nerves.

New Anti-Israeli Group Distributes Leaflets
NC250852 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] In the name of God almighty. Israel is your perpetual archenemy. It is your duty to resist. How? Abide by the legitimate government and never listen to Israel's instructions. Abide by the command which is shouldering the responsibility of confrontation. Do not pay income tax or protection money. Reject those who collaborate with Israel. Do not vacate your land. Make the south a place for your residence, work, entertainment, and an arena for resistance.

This was contained in leaflets distributed today by an organization calling itself the All-Out Civilian Resistance Against Israel [al-muqawamah al-madaniyah ash-shamilah didd isra'il]. The leaflets were distributed in west Beirut.

Air Defenses Shoot Down Drone Over Al-Biqa'

JN241522 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] Damascus — A military spokesman has stated the following: At 1324 today, 24 November 1983, a pilotless plane circled over the positions of our forces in western Al-Biqa'. Our air defense intercepted it and shot it down in the Sultan Ya'qub area.

President Al-Asad Receives Khaddan 23 November

JN240702 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] Damascus — President Hafiz al-Asad has received 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, who briefed the president on the talks he held with Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi minister of foreign affairs, on the efforts being exerted to deal with the intra-Palestinian conflict and to help the Palestinian brothers settle this conflict through dialogue and not fratricide.

The president also listened to Khaddam's report on the talks he held with the nonaligned states' team, which came to Damascus to become acquainted with the grave situation resulting from the U.S.-Israeli threats against Syria and from the massing of war fleets in the eastern Mediterranean.

The committee [as heard] had earlier told Khaddam that the Nonaligned Movement and its states stand on the side of Syria in its confrontation of threats and of the possibilities of an aggression. Khaddam also briefed the president on the talks held with the Nonaligned Movement's team on the current Palestinian conflict and the efforts being exerted to help find solutions to it. The president gave Khaddam his directives.

AFP Reporter Expelled for Reports on Al-Asad's Health

NC231343 Paris AFP in English 1249 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] Damascus, Nov 23 (AFP) — Cairo-based AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE correspondent Michel Garin was declared persona non grata here today and told to leave the country within 24 hours for sending "incorrect" news about the health of President Hafiz al-Asad, the Syrian Information Ministry announced. Mr. Garin, sent recently by AFP as a special envoy to Damascus, reported rumours in diplomatic circles there that President Al-Asad had suffered a heart attack, while making it clear that this had been officially denied.

Reportage on Nonaligned Mediation Committee

Khaddam Receives Cuba's Malmierca

JN231346 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, this afternoon received Malmierca, Cuban foreign relations minister and member of the nonaligned ministerial committee, currently visiting Damascus. The talks dealt with the current political situation in the Middle East and the relations between the two friendly countries.

Khaddam Meets SFRY's Mojsov

JN240947 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] Damascus — 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received this morning Mojsov, SFRY federal secretary for foreign affairs and member of the nonaligned ministerial committee, who is currently visiting Syria. Talks during the meeting dealt with the current political situation and bilateral relations between the two friendly countries.

TANJUG Reports on Talks

LD242155 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1603 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] Damascus, Nov 24 (TANJUG) — Yugoslav Foreign Secretary Lazar Mojsov and Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam had talks in Damascus this morning (Thursday) on bilateral relations and other questions of common interest to the two friendly non-alined countries. Mojsov conveyed greetings from Presidency of Yugoslavia President Mika Spiljak to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

Lazar Mojsov is in Damascus as one of a four-member nonaligned mission which is endeavouring to halt further bloodshed between Palestinians and renew unity in the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

Mojsov and his Syrian host noted the mutual interest in and possibilities for further advancing relations between the two countries in all fields. Mojsov and Khaddam exchanged views also on current international problems, in particular in the Middle East region.

Khaddam Briefed on PLO Talks

JN241338 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] Damascus — 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received the nonaligned ministerial committee, this afternoon. The committee is chaired by Marasimha Rao and comprised of the foreign ministers of Cuba and the SFRY, the under secretary of the Indian Foreign Ministry, and the Senegalese delegate to the United Nations. The meeting was attended by Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs; 'Isam an-Na'ib, under secretary of foreign affairs; a number of Foreign Ministry department directors; and the ambassadors of India, Cuba, and the SFRY. Khaddam was acquainted with the results of the committee's efforts to solve the Palestinian discord and stop the internecine fighting. Talk during the meeting, dealt with the current political situation in the region. The committee's chairman will hold a news conference at the Sheraton Hotel in Damascus at 1500 [1300 GMT] today.

Nonaligned Committee Meets Dissidents

JN241735 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] Damascus — The Fatah uprising leaders and a number of Palestinian revolution groups leaders have reiterated their adherence to the PLO unity and their rejection of the U.S.-Zionist designs and projects, particularly the Reagan plan, which aims at liquidating the Palestinian revolution. This came during the Nonaligned Movement's ministerial committee meeting in Damascus last night. The meeting was attended by PNC Chairman Khalid al-Fahum; 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, PLO Executive Committee member and official spokesman; and the Cuban, Indian, and Yugoslav ambassadors.

Brothers Nimr Salih, Samih Abu Kuwayk, Samir Ghawshah, Talal Naji, and Muhammad Khalifah gave a detailed explanation of the current events in Tripoli and north Lebanon and on the inter-Fatah political differences.

Abu Salih [Nimr Salih] asserted that the inter-Fatah dispute is a struggle between the reactionary forces and the nationalist forces. He said: Our dispute is with imperialism and Zionism. We are against capitulatory plans, including the Reagan plan which aims to control our Arab cause. Abu Salih voiced Fatah opposition to the Reagan plan. He said that 'Arafat deviated from the Palestinian consensus and accepted the Reagan plan which would lead to liquidating the rights and struggle of the Palestinian problem. He also referred to 'Arafat's repeated meetings with the Zionists and his violation, through these meetings, of the PLO Executive Committee resolutions and those of the PNC.

The Palestinian brothers explained the events and developments which accompanied the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, 'Arafat's stand on the invasion, and his departure from Beirut, thus renouncing the Palestinian rifle and betraying the Palestinian people in Lebanon who were later exposed to massacres in southern Lebanon and in the Sabra and Shatila camps. The Palestinian brothers explained to the committee 'Arafat's violations of both PLO and Fatah principles, his behavior, his making decisions without consulting the PLO and Fatah leaderships, and his squandering of PLO funds according to his whims without taking into consideration the circumstances of the Palestinian fighters and the needs of the Palestinian camps. They recalled 'Arafat's statement to U.S. television in which he said that the Palestinian decisionmaking is made by his own pen, thus deviating from the principle of collective leadership. They said that 'Arafat expelled 51 officials from the Fatah movement.

The Palestinian brothers said: Therefore, we refused to implement 'Arafat's decisions and demanded democratic dialogue to solve pertinent issues and violations. 'Arafat then ordered war against us. Instead of directing his guns at the Israeli enemy, he directed them at the Palestinian revolution fighters.

The Palestinian brothers expressed their regret for every drop of blood shed, pointing out that the Western media have been exaggerating the losses and the fighting in order to pave the way for a great error [as heard] and empower King Husayn with implementing the conspiratorial plot. They reiterated their adherence to the unity of the PLO and Fatah and to their rifles to liberate the land and resist the occupation. They also voiced their determination to confront all those who work to split the Palestinian revolution. They said: We will heed the opinion of the majority in Fatah to solve our disputes through a general congress.

The Palestinian brothers referred to U.S. hostility toward the Palestinian people's rights and its providing the Zionist enemy with all kinds of military and material support to enable it to entrench its occupation of Arab land. They said that the United States is our main enemy.

The Palestinian brothers pointed out that what is taking place in the Palestinian arena is in defense of PLO unity and in confrontation of Yasir 'Arafat's violations. They affirmed their unilateral commitment to the cease-fire and requested the committee to ask the other side not to expose the Palestinian people in the camps to killing and destruction. They reaffirmed that they agree to holding a democratic dialogue to solve the problem for the sake of PLO unity, to spare the Palestinian people's blood, and direct their rifles at the Zionist invaders.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Indian foreign minister spoke on behalf of the committee, stressing the need for PLO unity and the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to establish their independent state. He supported a cease-fire, provided the internal Palestinian disputes are solved among the Palestinian brothers themselves.

Holds News Conference, Departs

JN241916 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1835 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] Narasimha Rao, Indian foreign minister and chairman of the nonaligned ministerial committee, and members of the committee held a news conference at the Sheraton Hotel in Damascus today. The Indian foreign minister spoke about the committee's visit to Damascus at the instructions of Mrs Indira Gandhi, chairman of the Nonaligned Movement. He said the committee was entrusted with the task of affirming the cease-fire among the conflicting Palestinian brothers and solving their differences through democratic dialogue.

At the conference, which was attended by Arab and foreign newsmen, Narasimha Rao expressed satisfaction with the results of the talks the committee held with the brothers in the Fatah movement. He praised their desire to end their differences and continue the cease-fire in order to spare the Palestinian blood and the Palestinian revolution's unity. He called on the warring Palestinian sides to exert their utmost to preserve the cease-fire and solve their differences through dialogue.

Rao expressed his gratitude to Syria, and particularly to the Syrian foreign minister for his efforts that enabled the committee to reach these positive results, affiriming the Nonaligned Movement's states' support for the Syrian people's sacred struggle to liberate their occupied territories and back the Palestinian cause. He reiterated the Nonaligned Movement's support for the Palestinian people's just struggle under its legitimate representative,

the PLO, to restore their legitimate rights and establish their independent state.

The chairman and members of the nonaligned ministerial committee left Damascus this evening. They were seen off by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam; a number of Foreign Ministry department heads; and the Cuban, Indian, and Yugoslav ambassadors in Damascus.

U.S. Anti-Syrian Statements, Accusations Denounced

JN231606 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] Brothers, what is the United States preparing for the region? Those who have heard the statements made recently by senior U.S. officials — beginning with U.S. President Reagan's statement accusing Syria of being behind the explosions at the U.S. Marine and French partrooper headquarters in Beirut without the existence of any evidence supporting his false claim and even before an investigation commission had begun its work, and ending with the statements which U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger made yesterday and in which he levelled false accusations and made overt and covert threats against Syria, not to mention also George Shultz' completely biased statements in favor of Israel — must have noted the lack of objectivity in these statements and the insistence of the U.S. officials on changing the facts so as to harm Syria. Those who have heard these statements must have also discovered a strong desire by the U.S. officials to portray matters in the region in such a way as to present Syria as the threat to peace and security in the region, and Israel, which is the aggressor, invader, and violator of international laws and UN resolutions and the one which is occupying foreign territory that is three times the area allocated to the Jewish state under the UN General Assembly resolution concerning the partition of Palestine, as the peaceful state which is contributing to the establishment of peace and stability in the region, as Under Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger put it. Yet everyone far and near knows that the main problem in the region is Israel's policy, which is based on expansion on other people's territories and disavowal of the Palestinian Arab people's national rights. Furthermore, the problem in Lebanon is Israel's failure to withdraw its forces unconditionally from Lebanese territory under UN Security Council Resolutions 508 and 509. This withdrawal is a precondition for solving all of Lebanon's problems, including the presence of the Multinational forces which are interfering in Lebanon's internal affairs and are increasing tension and the danger of an armed clash in the region.

Whoever follows the developments and activities in the region will discover that it is not Syria but Israel which is threatening, warning, and embarking on aggressive military provocations with the backing and encouragement of the United States. Syria is not a warmonger. Syria has not provoked or attacked anyone in his own territory and homeland. Those who attack others are well known. Those who have dispatched their forces thousands of kilometers away from their country to interfere in other people's affairs and employ gunboat diplomacy to impose their wish on others are also well known.

But while not a warmonger, Syria also knows how to defend itslef. It has the strong willpower to utilize all the means in its power and all the material and moral support it enjoys to competently confront the aggressors so as to prevent them from acheiving their objectives, which conflict with the interests of security, peace, and justice in the region and the world. And when the Washington rulers talk about the Middle East within the context of their invasion of Grenada, then this should draw the attention and concern of the whole world as well as the attention and vigilance of all peace and justice-loving peoples in the world and prompt them to stem the evil before it takes place and to stop any adventures which might put the whole world in a difficult spot whose consequences cannot be predicted by anyone.

AL-BA'TH on Anticipated U.S.-Israeli 'Aggression'

JN240923 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 24 Nov 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Commenting on the anticipated aggression and the preparedness to sacrifice, *AL-BA'TH* newspaper stresses today that most observers concerned with the successive Middle East events have become almost completely convinced that the Reagan administration is actually preparing for a military action in the region against all the Arab forces that reject the U.S. solutions, which are aimed at settling the Arab-Zionist conflict in favor of Israel and in favor of both the short and long-term U.S. objectives in the region. These solutions are also aimed at confining this conflict to a narrow framework and at turning it into a regional dispute between Syria and Israel.

AL-BA'TH adds: The U.S. Administration had earlier tried to achieve these aims through various methods. However, it always failed because it always ignored the basic factors of the conflict, and worked to consecrate the Zionist occupation of Arab territories and to spread its hegemony on the entire region. It suffices to recall that the U.S. Administration tried to use the joint Zionist-U.S. invasion of Lebanon to simultaneously achieve the aims of both the United States and Israel. Hence, it can be emphasized that Washington has depended on some figures in the Palestinian revolution, such as 'Arafat, in addition to its dependence on the Jordanian regime. It hoped that they would consecrate the aims of the invasion as a first step toward the generalization of a new Camp David and toward the imposition of this new Camp David as a fait accompli that no one could resist.

'Arafat and the Jordanian regime have played their role in full as a result of the support that some Arab regimes have extended to them. These two sides worked hard to turn the Palestinian revolution fighters into unimportant elements. However, what happened was exactly the opposite of what the parties to the plot expected. Instead of being turned into valueless elements, the revolution fighters managed to heal their wounds and rise against the mentality that consecrated the blood of the revolution's martyrs to serve the U.S.-Zionist aims. Even the Lebanese nationalist movement, which was discredited by the plotters,

proved on the ground that it represents the Lebanese masses in deeds and not just words. We have all seen how this movement scored splendid victories despite all the practices of the official Lebanese authority and the isolationist militias, who are backed by the United States, Israel, Western Europe, and some colluding Arab regimes.

The paper indicates that what is taking place in the region now — namely, what the United States is currently trying to arrange with Israel and with the other parties in the region that linked their destiny to the U.S.-Zionist scheme — is only a part of the general hostile scheme drawn up with a view to turning the region into a U.S.-Zionist lake. The consultations and contacts taking place among the parties to the plot are clearly aimed at putting the final touches to a military action that Washington and Tel Aviv have decided to undertake in order to liquidate the Arab forces that resist the U.S.-Zionist scheme against the entire region. These Arab forces are specifically Syria, the Lebanese nationalist forces, and the Palestinian revolution forces.

Concluding, *AL-BA'TH* says: Our masses, which have previously resisted the aggressive attempts to undermine their freedom and dignity, will not be any less enthusiastic than before to sacrifice and reply to any aggression.

Upcoming U.S.-Israeli Talks in Washington Viewed

JN241536 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] U.S. President Reagan has prefaced his scheduled meeting with the Zionist lobby by manifesting hostility toward Syria and escalating his threatening tone, depending on his fleets and the numerous Western parties that support his aggressive trend. He knows that there is nothing that satisfies his Zionist allies and makes them happy more than voicing hostility to Syria and heightening the imperialist grudge against it because Syria insists on being the obstacle in front of the U.S. plans and political course in the whole region.

Reagan intended to have his consultations with his advisers, regarding the means to weaken Syria's steadfastness, coincide with the NATO-Israeli massing of forces, which has reached its peak, and also with the deteriorating world situation and the increasing imperialist danger to world peace. The U.S. Marines are currently in a state of combat preparedness, the guns of the Western allies are positioned on ships in the eastern Mediterranean, and the Zionist occupation soldiers are in a state of alert to achieve the expansionist Zionist objectives in Lebanon.

These threatening manifestations against Syria coincide with the misleading and unjust campaign which is planned to be the approach to submission by those who are defending falsehood, and to entrenching the joint Zionist-imperialist objective in the Middle East. But, will the aggressive tendency of the U.S. President and his allies be the approach to any type of peace? The Americans answered this query themselves. Syria, which is subjected to these threats and campaigns, has prepared itself for any development or possibility. Taking such a stand, Syria does not want to create direct confrontation with a superpower because it is aware that the weapon of right which it has is stronger, and because it is determined not to become a victim of threats and blackmail, whoever the threatening parties are and regardless of the number and type of the forces of aggression.

Reagan and the pillars of his administration have admitted on several occasions and in many statements that the Syrian stand is firm and unyeilding. Zionist leaders also admitted this fact and warned against the consequences of confronting it. Syria is aware of the extent of the U.S.-Israeli relations and the threats which these relations pose to the Arab people and their cause. Does the U.S. President believe that Syria will allow these relations to be the alternative for Syria's insistence to defend the Arab existence and fate? If the invitation for concluding a joint U.S.-Israeli defense agreement is meant to intimidate and blackmail Syria, then Washington will be miscalculating matters because its relations with Israel are deeper than such an agreement, whether this agreement is declared or not.

Israel is using U.S. arms and had U.S. expertise and funds at its disposal even before Shamir's visit to Washington and before its invasion of the Lebanese territory. Despite these close relations, Syria will not retreat and will not allow the aggressive alliance to weaken its firm stand and commitment to its deeply rooted pan-Arab ideology. When the United States pins hope on military action and depends on its weight as a superpower as well as on the numerous parties allied to it, it forgets what it must always remember, that Syria —despite its self-confidence — will not be alone in the confrontation and will turn the U.S. calculations upside down. It will not permit the aggressors to achieve the objectives of their aggression.

AL-BA'TH Views Israeli Raids, Downing of Planes

JN221057 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 22 Nov 83

[Press review]

[Text] In an editorial today, *AL-BA'TH* comments on the arrangements for the aggression and the answer to them saying: Over the past several days, Israel's activities have been concentrated on the political situation and Syria's increasing defense power. Meetings were held and statements and threats issued. These Israeli threats were crowned with two measures. The first was Israel's raids against Lebanese areas under the pretext of pursuing the dens of terrorism, as Tel Aviv put it — a measure which resulted in the Syrian ground defences downing of two Israeli planes, and which was regarded by observers as a warning message to Israel and the NATO alliance, which is currently providing a cover for Israel's aggressive forces. This message can be summarized as follows: The Syrian Armed Forces will deal painful blows to all those who try to carry out any aggressive step against Syria regardless of the identity of the aggressor and his military weight.

The second measure is the Zionist Cabinet's session which was held the day before yesterday to look into Syria's increasing military power and to take political and military measures to prevent a possible reversal of the balance of power in the area. It

was said in Tel Aviv that these measures were taken but were not disclosed before terrorist Shamir and this war minister Arens take them to Washington during their forthcoming visit in order to study them and incorporate them into the U.S.-Israeli program of strategic cooperation.

Tel Aviv's continuous political and military arrangements aimed at creating a state of permanent confrontation with Syria is no longer intriguing. It is no longer a secret that the United States is behind these arrangements, especially after transferring its war machine to the eastern Mediterranean coast, and after it has openly become a direct partner in the current struggle in Lebanon and the region with French support that climaxed with the recent French air raids against the nationalist positions in Lebanon.

These arrangements, which are being whispered in Tel Aviv, are tantamount to a plan of aggression. Israel and its NATO allies hold the view that the time is now ripe to carry out this aggression so as to strike at Syria as soon as possible in order to end the struggle in the region in favor of Zionism and under the joint U.S.-NATO umbrella.

AL-BA'TH adds: Damascus is watching all this; it understands all the signs and indications and is taking precautions to foil any possible projects of aggression. Damascus believes that any miscalculation by Washington, its partners, and allies will not be a threat only to Syria but to the entire family of the hostile alliance as well. This miscalculation will not harm Syria's vigor as much as it will harm the aggressors' vanity and folly. If the Zionist raids against Lebanon were an exercise for a comprehensive aggression, Syria's answer to these raids was also an exercise for a comprehensive answer. The results were very clear for every eye to see.

In another article entitled: "Syria Has Taken Every Eventuality Into Account," *AL-BA'TH* says: Observers have formed a number of opinions and have been speculating following the downing by the Syrian ground defenses of two Israeli planes over Beirut. Western media have considered this incident to be a spark that could cause a big explosion. The Israeli Government did not conceal its desire to escalate the situation by announcing that it would continue its operations because it considered that its mission against the so-called terrorist bases was continuing. The Western media themselves have not belittled the importance of Syria's confrontation of the Israeli planes and before them the U.S. 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean.

Syria, which has shouldered a pan-Arab responsibility, has taken all the results and eventualities into consideration. Israel has insisted on its policy of intimidation and escalation, and Syria has decided to be the honest protector of Arab land and the Lebanese nationalist forces. The presence of Syrian forces in Lebanon is to heal the Lebanese wounds and unify nationalist Lebanon so as to ensure Lebanon's independence and territorial integrity and the Lebanese people's freedom and right to exercise their free will in dealing with their pan-Arab causes.

If the downing of the two Israeli planes has brought the situation to a head as the Western circles say, then why is Israel's occupation of a quarter of Lebanon not considered a threat, or cause concern for the security of the entire region? When Syria confronted the Israeli planes, it was exercising its right and pan-Arab duty. But Israel has occupied Arab territory. How can the Western states justify this occupation in a distorted manner under the pretext of safeguarding peace?

Here we must discuss the Western viewpoint from the angle of the commercial considerations of the capitalist logic. The United States fears that, if Syrian ground resistance was able to bring down these planes, the value of its powerful planes will be lowered in the international market. The logic of exploding the situation exists. The Western capitals expect Israeli-U.S. reaction to restore the commercial value of the pride of the U.S. war industry. On its part, Syria is aware that its battle is long; and that its confrontation with aggression is ceaseless. It does not rule out retaliation.

Jordan Nationalist Movement Issues Statement

JN241721 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] Amman —The Jordanian Nationalist movement has condemned the Jordanian regime's decision that prevents Jordanian citizens from travelling to Syria. It affirmed that this decision adds a new tragedy to the series of tragedies from which the Jordanian people are suffering as a result of the Jordanian regime's policy and subservience to U.S. imperialism.

In a statement made today, an official of this movement said that the Jordanian regime's decision contributes to the feverish campaign which the imperialist, Zionist, and reactionary forces are waging in order to force Syria to yield and to undermine its pan-Arab role as well as to foil its opposition of imperialist conspiracies in the region. He condemned the arbitrary measures and the continued arrests which the Jordanian regime is carrying out against the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples who reject the regime's treacherous plans and policy which are linked to U.S. imperialism. He said that the Jordanian regime is trying hard to encircle the PLO and implement the Reagan plan in order to enroll Jordan in the Camp David conspiracy, and to convert the Jordanian Army into mercenaries to serve U.S. imperialism through the establishment of the rapid deployment force in Jordan.

The movement's official appealed to the nationalist and democratic forces in the Arab homeland and the world to expose the Jordanian regime and to support the struggle of the Jordanian nationalist forces against the Jordanian regime.

Oil Minister Defends Closure of Iraqi Pipeline

LD232240 Kuwait KUNA in English 1732 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 23 (KUNA) — Syrian Oil Minister Dr 'Abd al-Jabbar ad-Dahhak Wednesday defended his country's closure of the Iraqi oil pipeline through Syrian territory saying that the issue was one of sovereignty and that Iraq itself had provided the precedent for such action. The pipeline clousre affected last year over political differences, has severely affected Iraq's oil exporting abilities and been a subject of dispute for over a year and a half.

Ad-Dahhak, who is here to attend the ministerial meetings of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), said that the Syrian move was a "natural" consequence of the border closure between the two countries.

Iraq itself had not hesitated to cut off oil supplies to Syria in the past when it wanted to, he said, and it was hypocritical for Baghdad to bring up the issue in OAPEC.

"Iraq had previously prevented the flow of oil to Lebanon for reasons purportedly to do with its sovereignty, and the incident was not considered by OAPEC ministers", he commented.

'Military Sources' on Arens, Shamir U.S. Visit

TA231744 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] The prime minister and the defense minister will go to the United States without a shopping list in their hands. Israel has not prepared a list of demands [derishot] to be presented by Shamir and Arens during their visit to the United States. This was reported to our military correspondent by official military sources. The General Staff headquarters has determined Israel's position on the various issues expected to be raised in the talks, but Arens and Shamir will not, on their own initiative, make any requests or demands. Here is our military correspondent 'Arad Nir with the details.

[Nir — live in studio] Today people in the Defense Ministry are emphasizing that Minister Arens and Prime Minister Shamir were invited by the administration. The issues that will arise during the talks in the United States are not clear. From this we can say that the ball, at least at first, will be in the Americans' court. The Israeli envoys are going to hear, not to be heard, without any demands or requests and without a shopping list. However, on the other hand, the General Staff Headquarters and the various government ministries involved have determined the position to be presented by Israel on various issues which, it is to be assumed will arise. Let us recall that the invitation to go to Washington was given to the prime minister and the defense minister by U.S. Under Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger while he was visiting Israel.

As for the strategic cooperation, Defense Minister Moshe Arens' position is that Israel will not initiate the renewal of the memorandum of understanding that was presented at one time by Minister Ari'el Sharon or any other framework of that sort. However, if the administration in Washington presents the issue and asks to reformulate it, then Israel will not be opposed to this. In this context, the official military sources stress, despite the assessment that the United States has been disappointed with the positions taken by Syria and the developments following from them, despite this, it is not clear whether the administration and, especially, Defense Secretary Weinberger are interested in tightening military links with Israel, something that could isolate the United States even more in the Middle East. Here, perhaps, it is appropriate to reemphasize Israel's opposition to the establishment of the Jordanian task force because of the risk that this could be a turning point, one way or another, against Israel.

As for Lebanon, there is no intention to change the formulation [nosah] of the agreement signed with the mediation of Secretary of State Shultz. However, Arens and Shamir will say that the agreement can be implemented despite the Syrian presence in Lebanon, perhaps with changes in version [girsa] and with different stages [shelavim], but, from Israel's viewpoint, the signed agreement is still a goal to be fulfilled. The prime minister and the defense minister will leave Israel on their way to Washington on Sunday morning, 27 November. During the visit they will meet with President Reagan, the U.S. secretary of state, and with the secretary of defense, with whom they will conduct a series of working meetings. They will also take advantage of the visit for appearances in the media.

Shamir Asks King Husayn To Join Peace Talks

TA231611 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] This afternoon the prime minister praised King Husayn and Jordan for doing all they can to stop the infiltration of terrorists from Jordanian territory into Israel. Yitzhaq Shamir told senators from Canada that it is by virtue of the vigorous activities of King Husayn and his Army that we have no special problems with Jordan. In fact, he emphasized, the two countries are living in peaceful coexistence. The prime minister repeated his invitation to the Jordanian king to join the peace process. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer thinks that Jerusalem is making all efforts to incorporate King Husayn in the negotiations.

Ben-Me'ir on Possible Change in Jordanian Position

TA231947 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] Does King Husayn intend to present a new political initiative to settle the dispute in the area, after Yasir 'Arafat leaves Tripoli? Over the past few days the hints pointing to this have been increasing. Perhaps we can connect these links with the remarks made today by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, praising King Husayn for preventing the entry of terrorists from Jordanian territory into Israeli territory. In a talk with senators from Canada, the prime minister said that Israel had no problems with Jordan.

Our Arab affairs correspondent reports that the Jordanian crown prince, Amir Hasan, clearly said that Jordan is currently examining its future steps so as to give important weight to the residents of the territories in the peace process. At the same time King Husayn is considering elections to the Jordanian Parliament. King Husayn intends to allocate half of the seats in the Jordanian Parliament to representatives from the territories. Our correspondent says that lately King Husayn has exchanged two messages with 'Arafat and with 'Arafat's political adviser, Hani al-Hasan, while the latter spent 2 weeks in Amman. Husayn may want to reach an understanding with 'Arafat by the end of the year regarding President Reagan's peace plan.

Israel is receiving the hints that there may be a change in the Jordanian position positively. Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben-Me'ir thinks that the PLO's collapse in Tripoli commits King Husayn to joining the peace talks for the sake of the Palestinians' future. This is what Yehuda Ben-Me'ir said in an interview with our political correspondent Yoram Ronen.

[Begin videotape — date and place not given] [Ronen] Mr Ben-Me'ir, we are again hearing words from Jordan about its willingness to join the negotiations over the future of Judaea and Samaria. What is our reaction?

[Ben-Me'ir] We would welcome it. We are calling upon Husayn to join the negotiations. The prime minister, when he presented the Cabinet to the Knesset, publicly invited Husayn to join the negotiations. We think that the hour and the time have come for Husayn to really join the negotiations, as was determined at

Camp David, and we will get down to the negotiations table. Now is the time.

[Ronen] Do you think that this means he is taking advantage of the collapse of 'Arafat and the PLO and that the United States should now take advantage of the situation to incorporate Jordan into the negotiations?

[Ben-Me'ir] It is not a question of taking advantage; I think that the right time has certainly arrived. It is Husayn's duty to join the negotiations. It is not our duty, but his duty to the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el, the Palestinians. He owes this to them, when he can represent them in these negotiations, and this is also what was determined at Camp David, by the way, that Egypt and Jordan, together with agreed-upon representatives of the inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza would represent the Palestinian cause.

Now, in my opinion, the Rabat resolution, that was approved nearly 10 years ago, that determined that the PLO was the sole representative of the Palestinians, that miserable resolution is going up in the fires of Tripoli. There is a direct line from Rabat to Tripoli, and it appears to me that the Rabat resolution has reached the end of the road in the billows of smoke we are seeing in Tripoli. It is a pity that it took 10 years. This definitely is the right time, and it seems to me that the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el also recognize the bankruptcy of the Rabat resolution and of the PLO in general. Husayn should do his duty and join in the negotiations. [end videotape]

Tehiya, Druckman Opposed to Concessions

TA250557 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] The Tehiya Movement and Rabbi Druckman threaten to topple the government if, in their upcoming trip to Washington, the prime minister and defense minister agree to make concessions regarding Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Tehiya MK Ge'ula Kohen told our correspondent Arye Golan that if it is agreed in the talks in Washington to renew the autonomy negotiations according to the Camp David accords or to slow down the pace of settlement, there will not be a government. MK Ge'ula Kohen made it clear that if Prime Minister Shamir's call on King Husayn to join the negotiations will yield practical results and concessions, the three Tehiya members as well as Rabbi Druckman will withdraw from the coalition and will suggest that the Knesset be dissolved and early elections be held.

President Herzog Returns, Comments on U.S. Visit

TA250919 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 0815 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Ben-Gurion Airport, 25 Nov (ITIM) — President Hayim Herzog returned this morning from his U.S. visit and immediately conferred with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir who came to receive him. President Herzog met with Shamir in order to brief him about the content of the talks he held with U.S. President Reagan, Secretary of State Shultz, and Secretary of Defense Weinberger, in view of Mr Shamir's and Defense Minister Arens' departure for an official visit to the United States on Sunday. In a short news conference at the airport the president refrained from entering into details about the issues he discussed with U.S. Administration officials, but said that the prime minister and defense ministter are leaving for "very important talks and any comment of mine may be harmful." Mr Shamir can, however, expect a warm atmosphere which characterizes the mood prevalent throughout the United States regarding Israel. At the same time President Herzog warned against too great expectations of this visit although the situation today is good.

He said that the main goal of his U.S. trip was to maintain direct contacts with U.S. Jews, saying that he had never before realized the full power of this Jewry which exercises serious influence on the focal points of the U.S. Administration. This was Herzog's impression from a meeting with about 6,000 Jews during a convention of the General Assembly of the Council of Major U.S. Jewish Organizations held in Georgia, Atlanta, and in which he participated.

President Herzog also appeared before the UN General Assembly as well as appearing for the communications media on numerous occasions as part of a public relations campaign for Israel. In answer to a question he said he is not bringing any real news regarding the continued handling of the release of the other Israeli prisoners held by Ahmad Jibril and Syria. However, he raised this subject in all of his meetings in the United Nations and with U.S. Administration officials.

Senior Egyptian Foreign Ministry Official Expected

TA231037 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 23 Nov 83 p 1

[Report by Knesset Correspondent Shuqi Ben-'Ami]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry is expecting a visit by a high-ranking official of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry within the next few days. This was stated in the Knesset yesterday by Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben-Me'ir in reply to a question from MK Shlomo Hilel. The latter pointed out that the speech made in the United Nations by the Egyptian president had been extremely aggressive in its anti-Israel tone — more so than the speeches made by any of the heads of the Arab delegations. The deputy foreign minister stressed that the peaceful relations between Israel and Egypt require the presence of the Egyptian ambassador in Israel. His consultations in Cairo cannot extend over a period of 14 months since he was called back to Egypt.

Ben-Me'ir went on to add that his office was also raising additional issues pertaining to trade and tourism from Egypt to Israel, and so forth. "All these points are not just abstract and general. They are raised by us with all the firmness this matter requires," Mr Ben-Me'ir noted. An attempt had recently been made to renew the dialogue, he said, and the Foreign Ministry hopes for a far more intensive dialogue, conducted at more senior levels. "We will not abandon our efforts in this respect, in keeping with the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt." As for the Egyptian president's address in the United Nations, Ben-Me'ir said that he did not think there was any point in awarding grades to the speeches or the extent of extremism evident in various Egyptian expressions as opposed to statements made by other Arab del-

egations. At the same time, he pointed out that some of the remarks made by the Egyptian president, including his criticism of Israel's policy in Judaea, Samaria, Gaza, and Lebanon, were not acceptable to Israel.

Army Spokesman on Lost Contact With Drone

TA250550 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 5000 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] The Israeli Army spokesman is concerned that contact was lost yesterday with a pilotless drone on a routine flight over the eastern sector of Lebanon. Earlier Beirut radio stations reported that the plane was shot down by Syrian anti-aircraft fire. The Syrians are said to have collected the plane fragments for transport to Syria.

Junblatt Interviewed on Possible Agreement in Lebanon

TA241154 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Nov 83 p 2

[Report on "exclusive" interview with Lebanese Druze leader Walid Junblatt by correspondent to Europe Daniyel Dagan at the Sheraton Hotel in Brussels on 23 November]

[Text] Brussels — In an exclusive interview to *HA'ARETZ* last night, Druze leader Walid Junblatt said that if an international agreement were reached on the Lebanese issue the question of security in the Galilee would also be resolved within its framework. Junblatt aded that in such an event the Druze would see to it that Lebanon does not serve as a basis for attacks against Israel. Junblatt greeted me coldly in his room at the Sheraton Hotel in Brussels. Nevertheless, he was willing to answer several questions.

Question: What status do you want in southern Lebanon?

Answer: We are ready for a demilitarization of southern Lebanon. In that framework, we would work toward preventing terrorist attacks against Israel. The best thing that will guarantee peace in the Galilee is an internal arrangement in Lebanon.

Question: In that case there would be no more terrorist attacks?

Answer: Terror cannot be absolutely prevented. Only a solution of the Palestinian problem and the conflict with the Arab world will provide full security to Israel.

Question: Would you be willing to discuss an arrangement with Israel?

Answer: We have only known Israel through its tanks, cannons, and aircraft. We are not holding talks with it.

Question: You are going to meet Shim'on Peres this evening here. What will you tell him?

Answer: I am not going to meet Peres but to take part in a meeting which he will also attend. I have nothing to tell Peres. After all, although we are both socialists, he did not condemn the Israeli invasion into Lebanon.

Question: What are your complaints against Israel?

Answer: Israel invaded Lebanon and spread death there. It destroyed the balance in the Ash-Shuf mountains by allowing the Phalangists to enter that area. You are proud of your democracy,but it is a democracy where Arabs are either discriminated against or devoid of any rights whatsoever.

Question: Do you have a conflict with Israel?

Answer: I did not want and cannot fight against Israel. The Israelis know very well that when their forces were on the Ash-Shuf mountains they sustained a relatively small number of casualties. I have fought and I am fighting the Phalangists. I have no interest in fighting Israel although it is hostile to the Arabs. I regard Israel as a fait accompli.

In other parts of the talk, Junblatt said that he does not support any of the rival sides within the PLO. He nevertheless advocates a reform of the organization but without shedding any blood. He reiterated the Arab character of Lebanon and accused the West of conducting a unilateral policy against his country. "The West sends a whole fleet and large troops to support one man, Al-Jumayyil, and one party, the Phalangists. We will continue to struggle for a united Lebanon where all the sects enjoy equal rights," Junblatt stated. He confirmed that there are contacts between Lebanese and Israeli Druze but was not ready to elaborate beyond that. At the end of the meeting Junblatt heartily shook my hand and noted that this was the first time he had granted an interview to an Israeli paper.

Reportage on Release of Prisoners From Camps

Soldiers Exchanged for Detainees

TA240515 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] Our six soldiers who were held captive by Fatah have been released. They are now on board a French boat in the Mediterranean, on their way to Israel. This was announced by the IDF spokesman. The six are: Eliyahu Abutbul, 20; Dani Gilbo'a, aged 20; Rafi Hazan, aged 21; Re'uven Kohen, aged 21; Avraham Montevelsky, aged 19; and Avi Kronenfeld, aged 20. Yesterday Israel released 100 prisoners and security prisoners, as well as another 1,000 detainees from the Ansar camp, who were flown to Algeria. As soon as our six soldiers reach Israel, in a few hours, the process of releasing all the Ansar prisoners, as well as a few dozen detainees — female and male alike — fron Sidon and An-Nabatiyah will be completed. The International Red Cross [IRC] representative will receive the PLO archives captured by the IDF in Beirut.

The IDF spokesman announced that Israel had decided to first complete the negotiations toward the release of six prisoners held by the PLO after the fighting in Tripoli exacerbated, and it transpired that there was an immediate danger to their lives. The negotiations toward their release began a few weeks ago in Geneva, and Israel was represented by [former Justice Minister]

Shmu'el Tamir and Brigadier General 'Amos Yaron [the chief of Manpower Branch]. It was agreed that at the next stage, the release of the two soldiers held by Ahmad Jibril's organization will be discussed, as well as the action on the missing soldiers.

Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that the 100 security prisoners released by Israel are among the most dangerous terrorists captured by the security forces over the past few years. The detainees from Ansar were brought last night on board cargo aircraft to Ben-Gurion Airport, where they were put on board three Junbo aircraft leased by the IRC. Among the other Ansar detainees that will be released from Ansar, some of them will leave Lebanon and some will remain on Lebanese soil.

The process of releasing some 3,000 Ansar detainees is now in progress. They had expressed their desire to remain in southern Lebanon. The IRC personnel will today transfer the released persons to their homes. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the release was done in the utmost order. After midnight, the release of some 1,000 prisoners who wished to depart for Algeria was completed. The IDF officers encouraged the prisoners to depart for Algeria and indeed dozens of them joined the group that had been flown there. The commander of the Northern Command, Ori Or, said that the fact that 3,000 terrorists will remain in southern Lebanon will make security arrangements and processes there a lot more difficult, but added that the IDF is already prepared to combat that problem.

Prisoner Release Process Underway

TA240622 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] The process of releasing some 3,000 prisoners who had expressed their wish to remain in southern Lebanon is still underway. The International Red Cross personnel will today transfer the released people to their homes. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that thousands of Palestinians have already gathered in the centers of Tyre, Sidon, and An-Nabatiyah as well as near the 'Ayn al-Hulwah and Burj ash-Shimali refugee camps, awaiting the Ansar detainees' release. A curfew has been imposed on some of the villages along the central routes in southern Lebanon. The commander of the Northern Command, Ori Or, has said that the fact that thousands of terrorists remain in southern Lebanon will impose great difficulties in the maintenance of security in the region, but added that the IDF is already prepared to face that problem. Our correspondent adds that each of the Ansar detainees received a congratulatory letter upon his release, with a warning that the IDF will tighten its supervision of southern Lebanon and will react sharply to terrorist actions. The letter ends with the words: Shalom and let us not meet again in Ansar.

Wish To Fight 'Arafat

TA240915 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] Last night Israel released 100 security prisoners and detainees plus some 1,000 detainees from the Ansar camp, who were flown to Algeria. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that among them were terrorists from Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Jordan, Turkey, Sudan, Libya, Pakistan, India, and Somalia. In reply to questions by our correspondent, some of the terrorists said they support the Fatah rebels, and will ask to join their brethren fighting against Yasir 'Arafat.

Prisoners Waive Israeli Citizenship

TA241018 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1010 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Jerusalem, 24 Nov (ITIM) — The Israeli security prisoners signed a document in which they state their waiving their Israeli citizenship prior to their release. Regarding the non-Israeli prisoners, expulsion orders were issued against them, as well as leniency decrees signed by the commanders of the IDF commands, prepared in advance by the IDF. The spokesman for the Prisons Service, Shim'on Malka, disclosed that some of the prisoners, who had to forgo their Israeli citizenship, objected to taking that step, and upon reaching Ben-Gurion Airport furthermore refused to embark, but later they changed their minds and agreed to sign the document stating that they were waiving their Israeli citizenship.

IRC Communique on Exchange

TA241055 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1041 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] The International Red Cross [IRC] issued an official communique in Geneva about an hour ago, stating that the prisoner exchange was carried out following negotiations that lasted many months, with the mediation of IRC officials. The official communique further says that the IRC personnel had visited the six Israeli prisoners, and escorted them on board the French ship that took them out of Tripoli. Here is a report by Yosef Alperin from Geneva on the developments there:

[Begin recording] Great contentment was expressed in the IRC center in Geneva this morning over the execution of the prisoner exchange, a feat considered a success scored by this humanitarian organization. After the failure of the talks conducted in February between Israeli and Palestinian elements, with [former Austrian Chancellor] Bruno Kreisky's mediation, the IRC consented to extend its auspices to additional bipartisan talks.

In the last week of October, in a Geneva hotel, contacts were held between Israeli representatives and Jamal al-Hurani, a member of the PLO executive, and ('Umar ash-Shibabi), one of the leaders of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine — the General Command. For obvious reasons, the existence of these talks under the aegis of the IRC was denied. Yet now it looks as though they constituted a crucial stage in the process that led to the exchange of the prisoners, and it appears as though in the course of the negotiations Ahman Jibril's organization declined to waive its demand [derishato] that the security prisoners tried and imprisoned in Israel be released. Ever since the battles first broke out in Tripoli, the Israeli representation in Geneva has on various occasions expressed concern for the fate of the captives held by Fatah. Undoubtedly the latest events only contributed toward speeding up the exchange. [end recording]

Ansar Release Operation 'Accelerated'

TA241315 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] The process of releasing the Ansar detainees was accelerated this afternoon and so far 2,250 inmates have been sent home. The commander of the Northern Command, Ori Or, has told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that he hopes the operation will end within 2 weeks. All in all, 3,500 prisoners held in Ansar will be discharged to their homes in southern Lebanon. Major General Or noted that the camp will not be shut down, adding that the IDF will continue to maintain it as long as it remains in southern Lebanon.

Ansar Release Operation Ended

TA241509 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] The operation to release the Ansar detainees in southern Lebanon has ended. Our correspondent Aharon Barne'a reports that the camp's gates were closed exactly an hour ago. The evacuation was supervised by the Ansar commander, a colonel. Hundreds of Egged buses took part in the operation and transferred those released to various places in southern Lebanon. Since it was opened, about a year ago, the Ansar camp has housed about 5,000 detainees.

3,500 Remain in South

TA241652 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] The release of the Ansar detainees ended this afternoon, many hours earlier than planned. Some 3,500 of the camp inmates preferred to return to their homes in southern Lebanon.

No IDF Increase in Lebanon

TA241713 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] The commander of the Northern Command, Major General Ori Or, said that the IDF will not send more soldiers to Lebanon in order to face the situation created there following the release of thousands of terrorists from the Ansar camp in southern Lebanon. Maj Gen Or said there is no doubt that the presence of the thousands of terrorists in southern Lebanon increases the danger to our soldiers' security, but the IDF has ways and means to handle the problem. Maj Gen Or spoke to our correspondent Hayim Hecht.

Reaction to 'Political Aspects' of POW Exchange

TA241833 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Report by Shalom Qital and Shim'on Schiffer in the studio — live]

[Excerpt] [Qital] We have heard here the human side of what occurred today, what has, in fact, been happening over the past few months during negotiations. Some people are saying that there is not only a human side here, there is also a political turning point, perhaps. What is being said in Jerusalem, by the people with whom you speak?

[Schiffer] Perhaps one sentence will define matters. We will, within the coming days, again witness the revival of the Jordanian option. Following the downfall of Yasir 'Arafat in the wake of what has occurred in the PLO, all sides will raise the Jordanian issue. Israel has already raised it; the prime minister and the defense minister are speaking about their invitation to Husayn to come and join the political process; they are speaking about the fact that now there is no longer a PLO threat, a PLO veto hanging over Husayn, not to join in the political process. It seems that in the coming days we will witness all the contacts that both Shamir and Arens will have in the United States. The Americans will raise this issue, that the time has now come for the incorporation of Jordan, as the authorized representative — and from whom, in fact, the territories were taken — to come and speak about this issue. Yasir 'Arafat, too, when he reaches safety, when he gets through the stage of celebrations, that stage when he gets to Cyprus and after that to Algeria and tries to present his departure as some sort of political victory, it is certainly reasonable to say that he, too, will turn to Jordan and try to hold contacts with Jordan in order, somehow or other, to join the political negotiations bandwagon.

[Qital] That is, these evaluations take into account that Yasir 'Arafat is still part of the process, despite what is happening to him?

[Schiffer] In Jerusalem Yasir 'Arafat is not being taken into account. In Jerusalem the evaluation is that Yasir 'Arafat is finished. People are saying that there are reports that Saudi Arabia is stopping economic aid, the financial aid, that it gave to his organizaiton. It is being said that the desertions are continuing, both today and at this very moment. The best of his personnel are continuing to desert to the rebels' side and, in fact, Yasir 'Arafat no longer represents that very influential organization he has represented over the past few years.

Shamir Comments on Prisoner Exchange Process

TA240540 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Interview with Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, by telephone, by newsreel anchorman Shalom Qital — live]

[Text] [Qital] Good morning to you, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

[Shamir] Good morning.

[Qital] You heard the reaction of the returning prisoners. What can you tell them this morning?

[Shamir] First of all, I wholeheartedly share in the joy of the families who are fortunate to receive today, in a few hours, their

sons who are returning from captivity. Israel has exerted a tremendous effort to release its soldiers held in captivity who were exposed, over the past few days, to the danger of death. We are pursuing our efforts to gain the release of the remaining prisoners whom we have not yet succeeded in releasing from their captivity.

[Qital] Mr Shamir, our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer is also here with us, and we would now like to talk a little about the agreement reached, and the fact that our six prisoners have been released and that we still have two others held by Ahmad Jibril's organization, and three more in Syria, and on the fact that in return for the release of the six, all the prisoners and detainees from Ansar, as well as 100 such people who were held in Israel have been released.

[Schiffer] Mr Shamir, do you not fear that the price Israel has paid in releasing thousands of terrorists, that in fact by this it is actually erasing the results of the Peace for Galilee war, by rejuvenating the terrorist organizations and thus in effect fortifying Yasir 'Arafat, who was already on the brink of collapse in Tripoli?

[Shamir] It is true that we have paid a heavy price for the release of the six prisoners. However, in the negotiations over the past few weeks and days, we were guided by the knowledge that their lives were in jeopardy and that they might any moment fall to the worst fate. They were held in Tripoli, in the midst of the bloody battles that took place there, and we were worried about them every moment. These were not negotiations over the release of prisoners; it was an effort to save the lives of six of our fighters.

[Qital] Mr Shamir, we have just talked about injecting new blood into the PLO militarily, but we would also be justified, perhaps, in asking if this does not mark a political turning point. Here I am referring to the negotiations that ultimately led to such an agreement. Is this not, as we have heard leaders in the territories — from towns in Judaea, in Samaria — claim, that this might perhaps presage a new relationship between Israel and the PLO, which in turn is also in a new predicament?

[Shamir] The PLO is in a dire predicament, and this is a well known fact. I do not think that the release of the prisoners can alter its situation excessively. Israel is prepared for this, and if those who are currently in jails or detention camps should want, or attempt, to pursue the terrorist activity against Israel, Israel will find the way to put an end to their activity. They have seen in the past that Israel has found a variety of measures to defend itself, and we hope they have realized that these ways are not the right ways to promote and advance their brothers' cause. I hope they will not continue along this path, but if they should do so, we are prepared and their war will not succeed in the future, just as it was unsuccessful in the past.

As for the political aspect: First of all, I would like to thank the International Red Cross personnel, who have engaged in a human action here. I thank the French Government for its great help in carrying out this campaign of saving the six prisoners; and as for the Arabs of Israel whom you mentioned — by talking about a few of their representatives — today I hope they realize, as they shoud, that this course trodden by the PLO is not the way that could lead to peace or stability, either in Eretz Yisra'el or in the entire region.

[Qital] Mr Prime Minister, thank you very much, and we would like, on this opportunity, also to wish you a good trip to the United States.

[Shamir] Thank you very much.

Further Shamir Comments

TA241637 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1604 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Interview with Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Yorem Ronen on 24 November, at the prime minister's office in Jerusalem — live or recorded]

[Text] [Ronen] Mr Shamir, the price we paid is a high price, and as one of the IDF officers put it: We can now expect that thousands of terrorists will return to southern Lebanon, as it was before the war.

[Shamir] The price was very high and therefore the decision was very difficult.

However, the main concern was that the six were in danger of losing their lives, as was said before. This was a danger that their captors could do nothing to prevent. And therefore, we did all we could, agreed to more than we were ready to agree to before, in order to save their lives.

[Ronen] And therefore we agreed to release dozens of security prisoners who were guilty of serious deeds, such as the hijacking of the Sabena plane or terrorist acts which caused the death of Israeli citizens?

[Shamir] To our regret, in order to save these boys, we were forced to do that. I am not sure that anybody else in our place would have made a different decision. And as said, the decision was very difficult. I share the happiness of the families, I also share the concern of those families whose sons have not yet been released from captivity.

However, I hope that these families as well can be encouraged by the partial achievement today, that they can now believe that the government is making a great and tremendous effort to bring all the sons in captivity home. That they can believe and hope that their sons as well will return soon.

[Ronen] Those families, Mr Shamir, two families whose sons are held by Ahmad Jibril's men, bitterly complained today that no one contacted them, as if they did not exist. Was there no blunder here?

[Shamir] They were not forgotten. They are deep in our hearts. And we think about them all the time and act on behalf of them. I do not know if they should have been told, last night, that their sons will not return with the rest, maybe this should have been done. However, these families can be sure that we will do all we can, and continue to do so, and will bring them back.

Thanks France for Aid

TA241718 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir thanked French President Mitterrand for the aid extended by France which contributed to the success of the operation for releasing the prisoners. Shamir said this in a cable he sent to Paris. Yasir 'Arafat sent a similar cable.

IDF Prepares for Possible Terrorist Activity

TA250559 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] IDF officers in southern Lebanon discussed with the Lebanese authorities the necessary preparations for possible disturbances in the wake of the release of the thousands of detainees from the Ansar camp. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that there is a particular fear of violent reactions by released Ansar detainees whose houses and property were seized during their absence. This is especially grave in An-Nabatiyah where Shi'ite residents had returned after being expelled by the terrorists 7 years ago. The IDF officers made it clear to the Gendarmerie commanders as well as to the leaders of the villages and towns in southern Lebanon that the IDF is prepared to extend aid to them any time it is requested to do so.

Tamir, Ben-Elisar Promise Action on Prisoners

TA241008 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] Shmu'el Tamir, who represented Israel in the negotiations over the release of the prisoners, has said that the efforts to bring about the release of the other prisoners held by Syria and the PLO [Ahmad Jibril's organization] will continue. Chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Dr Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, also said that the negotiations toward their release will continue. MK Ben-Elisar added that even after the release of the Ansar camp detainees, Israel still has something to give back in return for the release of the remaining Israeli prisoners.

David Levi on PLO Contacts on Prisoner Exchange

TA241144 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1116 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister David Levi by 'Oded Sapir on 24 November — recorded]

[Excerpt] [Sapir] Mr Deputy Prime Minister, have the agreements [haskamot] reached with the PLO not marked a change in the future attitude toward that organization?

[Levi] There is on its banner the call for destroying, conquering, and annihilating the State of Israel. This is repeated in its charter, too. We should not view the action we took — when we were mainly directed by the desire to bring back our sons — as a change in the attitude and approach toward murderers whose sole purpose is to sow destruction, murder,,and fear here in order to achieve their evil wishes, their objective. Therefore, if there is any change it will be in the recognition of the Arab inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria who will realize that the road of evil, which they have thus far pursued, leads only to bereavement, bloodshed, and (?hostility). If they embark on the road whose message we are trying to deliver to them through our extended hand, for peaceful Jewish-Arab coexistence in Judaea and Samaria — where no Palestinian state, which is a danger to our lives, will be established — but that we should live in peace together, and if they see that we insist that no one will deprive them of either their possessions or their land and they realize that no one will expel them from their home, if they realize that this is where we will create the joint life and a new type of cooperation and peace without danger, perhaps this could serve as the bridge for life between Jews and Arabs in the Middle East.

[Sapir] Mr Deputy Prime Minister, I would like to ask you about the entire Cabinet's position regarding the negotiations that were actually conducted with the PLO. Have there been any differences of opinion, disputes regarding tactics, principles, or anything?

[Levi] It is true that the Cabinet determined that three of its members will handle this delicate issue: The prime minister, the deputy prime minister, and the defense minister. They received the authority to do that. However, I must also add that we took care to update the Cabinet on all the details during the last session. There was no objection to this, and this was the unanimous opinion of the entire Cabinet, which realized that this will determine the fate of our soldiers and their lives.

Defense Minister Arens' Statement on POW Exchange

TA241420 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1332 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Statement by Defense Minister Moshe Arens at a news conference following the release of the Israeli prisoners of war at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv — live]

[Text] [Arens — picked up in midsentence] First stage in the campaign to get our boys back home. There are people who say it is our weakness; I think it is our strength and pride, the concern for those who are captured, the concern for those who are wounded on the battlefield, and the concern for the people killed on the battlefield. That concern has accompanied us for many months, throughout all the attempts to obtain the release of the prisoners.

Initially we determined that we would be prepared to agree [lesakem] to an arrangement [hesder] for the return of the prisoners only if we could do this for all eight prisoners and for all the missing. Over the past few weeks, in view of the events in Tripoli, when it became clear to us that, in fact, there was no one body that could guarantee to return all of them to us, and when, each and every day fear for the safety and physical security of the six prisoners who were in Tripoli was increasing, we made the difficult decision to conduct contacts, in an attempt to agree [lesakem] on the release of the six. We lived with the fear and dread of danger to their safety, the security of their lives, which was hanging over their heads every day, every hour. I must say

that last night, too, all night, while we followed each step, I only breathed easily when, at about 0500 [0300 GMT] we received the announcement that the six boys really were on the French ship.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all those many people who took part in the campaign, who worked vigorously and devotedly to bring about the successful conclusion. During the preliminary stages, lawyer Arye Marinsky headed the team. When he became ill, Shmu'el Tamir replaced him, conducted this campaign voluntarily ever since, working 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, almost.

I want to thank the head of the Personnel Branch of the IDF, Brigadier General 'Amos Yaron, who dealt with the contacts and, after that, supervised the campaign, and all the team who worked with them and also all those people who acted as advisers for us. Devotion, vigor, wisdom, all that together, brought about the result. It may be that anyone who was not at Ben-Gurion Airport last night and did not see with his own eyes the hundreds of soldiers and officers of the IDF, it would be hard for him to appreciate the scope of the operation that was implemented yesterday. This was a complicated operation, a difficult campaign, that was implemented on short notice, with the chief of staff, of course, heading the campaign. I felt, before all of the soldiers, of the officers, who had taken part in that campaign, the concern, the terror, the feeling that they themselves were holding in their hands the fate of those six boys.

I am grateful to the Red Cross, which played a most important role here. Without them, of course, it would have been impossible to conduct the contacts and maintain them. In the name of the Government of Israel I thank the Government of France for the important contribution they made to the campaign and I want to remind you and all the citizens of Israel that we concluded the first stage. We are continuing without interruption with the following stages in order to bring all of them home, the prisoners being held in Jibril, the two prisoners, the missing, and the three captives being held by the Syrian Army. In the contacts for the release of the two who are being held by Jibril, we will not enter into that campaign without negotiating cards and so I am optimistic that we will also be able to complete the campaign and bring all ofthem back.

Arens Answers Correspondents' Questions

TA241501 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1409 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Nisim Mish'al and unidentified correspondents at a news conference following the release of the Israeli prisoners of war at the Defense Ministry — live]

[Excerpts] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr Defense Minister, what significance do you attribute to the fact that, in fact, commanders and fighters were released yesterday who will return to the ranks of the terrorist organizations?

[Arens] Well, Brigadier General Yaron has already said here that this is a cause for concern. We have invested a great deal of effort in capturing those criminals and we will take the steps, the possible and required measures to guarentee, as far as is possible, that in the future we will not be hit by some of those people. But as for the decision that we had to make, I think it has already been explained. It was clear to us that any delay, any further attempt to bargain could be catastrophic for the six soldiers.

[Nisim Mish'al] Mr Defense Minister, the release of the terrorists will bring new blood streaming into the terrorist organizations, especially in southern Lebanon. Do you fear a deterioration in the security situattion in this area?

[Arens] We have security problems in that area. We will have security problems in that area. I would not ignore the fact that, as a result of the release of those terrorists, these problems may be more serious for us. We will have to cope with those problems.

[Unidentified correspondent] Perhaps you could comment on the political implications of the exchange of prisoners. Do you envision the possibility that 'Arafat will turn toward the political direction?

[Arens] As far as I can evaluate, there are no political implications whatsoever to the contacts there have been and the results that have been achieved. We simply worked in an attempt to release the prisoners. The degree of cynicism and that approach — by the other side — that is so different from our approach in the preliminary stages of the negotiations has already been commented upon here.

[Mish'al] Perhaps a last question to you, Mr Minister. Would it be correct to say that the elite of the terrorists have been released from prisons in Israel?

[Arens] First of all, I would not like to give them praise of that sort. We have released from Israeli prisons not 100, as was publicized this morning, as far as I heard, but 63. The other 66 were terrorists we caught over the past months from terrorist ships between Cyprus and Lebanon. We certainly were not happy about releasing these 66. This was, in fact, a list that they dictated. There are worse than them, there are better than them, but none of them are good.

[Mish'al] Have we been left with any bargaining cards for possible negotiations with Ahmad Jibril?

[Arens] We certainly have been left with bargaining cards. I said this earlier. We have something to say in these contacts and so I think we also have optimism that it will be possible to achieve positive results.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Minister, from what we have just heard, we may, perhaps, understand that, in fact, under no circumstances is it possible to achieve any agreement with the PLO, certainly not in its current situation. Is this true?

[Arens] I think that nothing new has happened. The PLO, with all its branches, is a terrorist organization whose goal is the destruction of the State of Israel, that is its avowed goal. And if, over the course of many years, it has succeeded in convincing a section of the public in the West and, perhaps, here and there, even a section of the Israeli public, that it is a national liberation

movement, then over the past few weeks in Tripoli I think it has been made clear beyond any doubt that it is nothing but a collection of terrorist gangs who are fighting over booty, who are fighting over seniority, who are prepared to kill each other in a violent fight that has no ideological motive [last word in English] and who are prepared, in that fight, to kill hundreds, if not thousands of Palestinians who are settled in the refugee camps near Tripoli.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Minister, the latest developments in Tripoli, could they not, in your opinion, accelerate or push Jordan into negotiations soon, with Israel?

[Arens] It is difficult for me to say. For the past 35 years we have been trying to interpret the Jordanian king's thoughts and considerations, his incentives. As is well known, we are open to negotiations with him, here or there. The prime minister is prepared to invite him to Jerusalem whenever he is prepared to come. I assume that the prime minister would also be prepared to travel to Amman if he were invited by King Husayn, but, as I said, we have already been waiting for 35 years for the opportunity that has not yet come.

[Unidentified correspondent] Is there likely to be a reaction from the Jordanian side in the near future?

[Arens] At this stage, we have not seen any signs of this, we hope there will be.

[Yig'al Lev] Mr Defense Minister, where is Yasir 'Arafat at present?

[Arens] I do not reegard myself as an authoritative source for that information. As far as we know, he is still in Tripoli.

[Tali Zelinger] Mr Defense Minister, will Ansar continue to serve as a camp for prisoners or is there any chance that the camp will be closed and the type of detention will be changed, the detention of prisoners in Lebanon?

[Arens] I think that, if you will excuse me, this is not the time for us to discuss the policy of running prisons or prisoners' housing. We will make an announcement about this in due time.

[Mikha'el] Gerti] Mr Minister, would it be possible to receive, or will it be released for publication, the list of prisoners who have been released form prisons in Israel and the crimes they committed?

[Arens] I assume that this will not remain a secret for long.

Brigadier General Yaron Speaks at News Conference

TA241731 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1359 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Statement by Brigadier General 'Amos Yaron at a news conference following the release of the Israeli prisoners of war at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv — live]

[Text] When I became head of the IDF Manpower Branch, the boys whom we rescued from imprisonment today were still in captivity. In fact, I continued wide-ranging activities to secure the release — indeed I regarded it as a personal mission — soldiers and our missing in action who were in the hands of the enemy. That mission has not been completed. It was partially completed today, with the return of the six, but there are still prisoners in Syrian hands, prisoners in the hands of the Ahmad Jibril's organization, and missing in action, both with the terrorists and with the Syrians, and bodies of our soldiers who were killed. This is the joy and this is the sorrow.

I did not believe that I, as the head of the IDF Manpower Branch, would also be involved, not in the negotiations, but in operations. I am prohibited from doing so, but yesterday's operation was something unusual, unusual in that you find yourself in a situation in which your soldiers are in the hands of someone else. I went through that experience yesterday for the first time and I must admit that it was not, for me, a pleasant experience from the aspect of its difficulties. However, I must say here a good word about the International Red Cross organization [IRC] and it is appropriate for me to relay what someone from the IRC, (Jean Opinger), said at the begining of the contacts. He said that he would fight and, of course, to hear such words from a person from the IRC, it is not usual and it is appropriate for me today to say that he did fight, he did make efforts to personally implement this campaign.

Our prisoners, last night, until the evening hours, were in the terrorists' hands. Two or 3 days prior to that they were given some sort of a warning, that something was going on and they might be released. Yesterday evening, about 2000 [1800 GMT], two members of the IRC reached our boys and, in fact, began to implement the operation and they took them to Tripoli Port and, by means of ships, then took them to an IRC ship. After they reached the IRC ship, they continued west, to the sea, and from there they were transferred to the French naval ship and, from there, to one of our naval missile boats.

Each stage was overseen by that same (Jean Oplinger) who said that he would fight. It is appropriate for me to note that sentence and give it the proper prominence, because after all, the situation in Tripoli over the past few days is well known to all of us.

The aid of the Government of France, with its ship and with the transfer, that, too, is worthy of being singled out. It is clear that this operation was very complicated and involved intricate coordination; every move was dependent on the implementation of another; both sides guaranteed to implement, simultaneously, things so that it would be possible to advance to the next stage. Even if I do say so myself, as soon as I was told in the morning, at about 0900 [0700 GMT] that the operation was to be implemented tomorrow, that is, according to the first plan, the operation was to have begun to be implemented only this evening. We were in a state of alert, for 48 hours, but after 2 hours, we were told again: not tomorrow, but today. So, when it is a question of our soldiers, we will be ready to improvise and, with an Army like ours, we will be able to meet such a timetable. They were, frankly,improvisations, but everything went well like clockwork.

I tell you that it cut me to the quick to see the terrorists who boarded the Air France planes, because I know how we paid until

we captured them and put them in prison. The only consolation I had at that moment was that for six of our soldiers we have to give so many thousands of terrorists.

Shmu'el [Shmu'el Tamir] did not mention that, but he did speak about the cynicism, that, at a certain stage, the cynicism reached the point where they said: We are prepared to return to your two prisoners and one body in return for 3,000 terrorists. The boys are home with us and I saw them when they disembarked from the missile boat. We were concerned about the health of Dani Gilbo'a. We were happy to see that he had recovered and the health of all six is good and the health of the families is even better. I can point out in one word, the word with which I began, when I said that I am not capable of standing up to the implementation of partial missions — and under the supervision of the chief of staff and, above him, the defense minister and the Cabinet, and Mr Shmu'el Tamir — but I am sure that we will find the solutions with the utmost rapidity and we will bring the boys still captive back home.

Labor Party Leaders Meet Weizman on Politics

TA250554 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] The Labor Party leaders say that 'Ezer Weizman intends to return to politics shortly and to act with the Alignment in order to replace the government. Our correspondent Amnon Nadav has learned that the head of the Alignment's Knesset faction, Moshe Shahal, and MK Rafi 'Edri conferred with Weizman in the latter's house 2 weeks ago and Weizman told them that in a month or two he will be prepared to act with them in order to establish another government or to advance the elections. According to the two, 'Ezer Weizman has despaired of the the all-time record rise of the consumer price index in October by 21.1 percent, a further rise of 15 to 16 percent is predicted for November and inflation is expected to reach a record 180 percent by the end of 1983.

chance of returning to the Herut Movement and told them he has both the money and the will to head a liberal center list which may also include Knesset members from the Likud's Liberal faction.

Treasury Forecasts 390 Percent Inflation in 1984

TA241108 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 24 Nov 83 p 12

[Report by Shraga Meqel]

[Text] A forecast prepared by the Finance Ministry states that inflation might reach 390 percent in 1984. Such a rate of inflation, which would reflect an average monthly increase of over 14 percent, should be expected if economic processes and agreements remain unchanged, if there are no further cuts in the state budget, if the shekel is devalued according to inflation, and if the cost of living agreements remain in effect. Top economic echelons currently believe that it is impossible to slow down the pace of inflation unless radical steps are taken by means of a package deal with the Histadrut which would lower wages to enable a curb of prices and the rate of devaluation. A much more far-reaching move is also contemplated. In this context, the proposal was raised by some government ministries to stop the flow of funds from the state budget by means of a resolution that would prevent ministries from spending funds in excess of the Treasury's revenues.

It seems that Finance Minister Yig'al Kohen-Orgad is for the moment not inclined to adopt any proposals for extreme economic measures and favors gradual budgetary and financial moves. He believes that inflation will slow down because, among other things, the assets held by the public were eroded when the rates of the bank shares slumped in the stock market. Following

ALGERIA

Bendjedid Receives Palestinians Hawatimah, Khalaf

LD242115 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] At the presidency this afternoon Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and secreatary general of the FLN party, received Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], member of the Fatah Central Committee. The meeting was also attended by Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the FLN Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs, and Abdelkader [name indistinct], an official at the presidency.

Arab League Secretary General Arrives 22 Nov

LD221547 Algiers APS in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 Nov 83

[Text] Algiers, 22 Nov (APS) — Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League, arrived in Algiers this morning as part of a tour that will take him to all the Arab states. Chedli Klibi spoke to APS at the VIP lounge of Houari Boumedienne Airport. Klibi said he is in Algeria on the first leg of his tour and will continue consultations covering all Arab States.

He added: I attach great importance to the talks I shall conduct with President Chadli Bendjedid and [Foreign Minister] Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi in view of the distinguished role being performed by Algeria both within the Arab framework and on the international level. At any rate, I was recently in constant touch with Algerian brothers, particularly regarding the situation in Tripoli. I hope we will succeed in ending this tragedy. Chedli Klibi addressed a cable to all heads of Arab states on Monday connected with the necessary means to stop bloodshed in northern Lebanon and save the city of Tripoli.

Leaves Algiers

LD222347 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 22 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League, has ended his visit. On leaving Algiers Chedli Klibi said President Bendjedid assured him of the Algerian Republic's support for any Arab effort capable of helping to end the fighting in northern Lebanon and for any joint Arab action. The secretary general also said his talks with President Bendjedid dealt with preparations for holding the Riyadh summit and Arab relations with various international communities.

Lebanese Party Leader Junblatt Departs

LD221253 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Nov 83

[Text] Walid Junblatt, chairman of the Lebanese Socialist Progressive Party, left Algiers today. During his visit to our country, Mr Junblatt was received by President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and secretary general of the party. He was also received by Brother Sliman Hoffman, chairman of the party's Foreign Relations Committee, and by Brother Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, a member of the Political Bureau and an official of the Central Committee's Permanent Secretariat.

Lebanon's Birri Departs Algiers 22 Nov

LD231116 Algiers APS in English 1008 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] Algiers 23/11/83 (APS) — Mr Nabih Birri leader of the Lebanese "Amal" movement left Algiers yesterday after a few days visit. In a brief statement before departure he said he discussed with Algerian leaders the situation in Lebanon. He said only unity and concorde among Lebanese would ensure the liberatin of Lebanon from the Zionist occupier. Lebanon needs to recover its unity after eight years of civil war characterized by a division of the Lebanese people into communities and confessions, he also said.

U.S. Energy Secretary Meets President, Ends Visit

LD221947 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 22 Nov 83

[Excerpt] President Chadli Bendjedid received U.S. Secretary of Energy Donald Hodel this morning. The U.S. official brought a message from President Ronald Reagan.

It is worth noting that the U.S. energy secretary concluded his talks with Minister of Energy and Petrochemical Industries Nabi this morning and left Algiers after a 2-day visit.

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives King Fahd's Envoy

LD250738 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] Tripoli, 25 Nov (JANA) — The brother leader of the revolution received Ash-Shaykh 'Ali Musallam, the personal envoy of King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, king of Saudi Arabia, yesterday within the framework of Arab consultations on the current situation. Ash-Shaykh 'Ali Musallam handed the leader a message from King Fahd which dealt with the situation in the Arab arena and with the crusade assault to which the Arab entity is being subjected.

JANA Quotes Radio Criticism of Husayn Remarks

LD241032 Tripoli JANA in English 0845 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] Tripoli, Safar 19, Nov 24, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The voice of the Greater Arab Nation, Jamahiriyah radio in one of its commentaries refuted King Husayn's attack on Jamahiriyah and Syria with regard to the Palestinian revolution. The commentary read as follows.

The Jordanian regime is now shedding crocodile tears by pretending to talk in favour of the Palestinians. One of his allegations, this time, is that the revolutionary movement in Fatah has

been initiated by external elements and that those who support it aim to destroy the Palestinian resistance.

It is ridiculous that a regime like Jordan would talk about the Palestinians when it has got the worse record of crimes against them. The Jordanian regime, we all remember, abandoned the West Bank as an easy target for the Zionists by refusing to arm the Feddayeen and by arresting them when they were on the way back from the occupied land.

When the resistance movement became strong to the extent of controlling the occupied land and threatening the Zionist entity, the Americans and the Zionists did not find any regime but King Husayn's to hit the revolution. Thus, he committed the massacre of Black September in 1970 where more than 40,000 Palestinian were killed. One year later in 1971 the Jordanian regime hit the rest of the Palestinian bases in Jarash. It is the Jordanian regime which intends to destroy the resistance by dragging it to submissive solutions and agreements.

The revolutionary movement in Fatah is a rebirth for the Palestinian resistance and a call for fight and confrontation, something against King Husayn's wish of closing the file of Palestine. No wonder the Jordanian regime is plotting, together with other, to stab this movement from behind.

We believe Jordanian regime criticism to the movement is a credit in its favour. It also proves, among other things the conspiracy of the revisionist right Palestinian elements against the revolution. By defending 'Arafat and his clique King Husayn desperately attempts to save his own regime since the revolutionary movement indicates the amalgamation of all the revolutionary masses against reactionary regimes.

We have got the right to speak about the Palestinian question in terms of revolution and armed struggle since nobody would beat the Jamahiriyah in aiding the Palestinian resistance not only in money and weapons but by offering the blood of its sons who fought together with the Palestinians, the Lebanese and the Syrians. It must be known that people of the Jamahiriyah will stop any plot and conspiracy against the Palestinian cause.

MOROCCO

'Arafat Envoy Arrives for Talks With Hasan

LD231839 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] Hani al-Hasan, member of the Fatah Central Committee and political adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, arrived in Morocco today. He made the following statement at Muhammad V International Airport:

[Begin Al-Hasan recording] It goes without saying that whenever important developments occur, consultation takes place with His Majesty King Hasan II and with all responsible officials in Morocco. Therefore, I was entrusted yesterday by Brother Abu Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] in a telephone conversation from Tripoli with the task of coming to Morocco and briefing His Majesty King Hasan II about the latest developments of this disgraceful onslaught on the Palestinian people and their camps in Tripoli. I was also asked to praise, thank, and express appreciation for the efforts of his majesty the king made in his capacity as the current chairman of the Arab group and for his endeavors together with the nonaligned states, both at the committee of seven and the committee of eight. I hope to have a lengthy conversation with his majesty to exchange views particularly with regard to the future of the Palestinian question.

With regard to the PLO, in 4 weeks we will celebrate the 19th anniversary of the birth of our revolution, which is the longest revolution in the contemporary history of the Palestinian people. We, as Palestinians, have no doubt at all about the future of our revolution and the future of the PLO, because this revolution draws its strength from the people's affiliation with it. Those who have defeated the present conspiracy against the Palestinian people are thePalestinians themselves by their steadfastness and their rallying around Brother Abu Ammar. Personally, I am optimistic and I believe that we have reached the end of the difficult stage, and not the beginning. At any rate, those who plotted against the Palestinian cause are finished in the Arab homeland. There is a curse called the curse of [word indistinct] which falls on everyone who plots against the [word indistinct] people. [end recording]

Hani al-Hasan was met by (Ahmad ibn Sudah), the king's adviser, and by Abu Marwan, the PLO's representative in Rabat.

King Opposes Negotiations With Polisario

NC231642 Paris AFP in English 1630 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] Rabat, Nov 23 (AFP) — King Hassan II of Morocco has said that his government will not negotiate with the Polisario Front, with which it is in conflict over the western Sahara, in a memorandum published in the press here today.

Moroccan troops have been fighting Polisario guerrillas for control of the Western Sahara since Spain withdrew from the territory in 1975, and the dispute has put great strain on the Organisation of African Unity. At the OAU summit in Addis Ababa in June, African leaders called on the two parties to negotiate a ceasefire to pave the way for a self-determination referendum in the territory before the end of this year.

But in the memorandum to members of the United Nations and African heads of state, King Hassan says Morocco has "conceded sacrifices" in accepting the idea of a referendum on what it considers its own territory. Morocco "cannot in any way accord international status to an entity which does not fully enjoy that right", the memorandum said, indicating that Rabat still refuses to recognise the Polisario for negotiating purposes.

Only the referendum could test whether the Polisario's claims were founded or not. One could not accept the legimitacy of an armed opposition movement by the sole virtue of its existence before any self-determination process, it said. The king said that the question of a ceasefire "is solely a matter for the aggressor" (Polisario). It would suffice for Polisario to "cease its attacks for the ceasefire to be established immediately".

Publication of the Moroccan memorandum on the Saharan sitaution followed a claim in Madrid yesterday by a leading Polisario representative that secret negotiations had in fact taken place between the two parties. Bashir Mustapha told a news conference that the Polisario wanted these negotiations to take place openly from now on. He said the last meeting took place in Algiers in April and that the Moroccan delegation comprised King Hassan's personal adviser and the interior and foreign ministers.

Mr Mustapha spoke of Spain's "historic debt" to the Saharan people, and said he hoped that the Spanish socialist party, now that it was in power, would maintain the position of the Sahara that it held while in opposition. He called for the Spanish and French Governments to put pressure on the Moroccan regime. The Polisario representative, who said he was in Spain on a private visit, also [words indistinct] the Western Sahara signed earlier this year by Madrid and Rabat.

Bahraini Heir Apparent Arrives on Visit
LD241006 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1530 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] Rabat, 23 Nov (MAP) — Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the Bahraini heir apparent and commander in chief of the armed forces, arrived this afternoon on a private visit to Morocco. His highness was received at the airport by his royal highness the crown prince, Prince Sidi Mohamed.

Equatorial Guinea President Arrives 23 Nov
LD241352 Rabat MAP in English 1235 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] Rabat, Nov 24 (MAP) — The president of Equatorial Guinea, Mr Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo arrived here Wednesday, for a visit to Morocco. In a statement to newsmen Mr Teodoro Obiang said that "this friendship visit aims at working out a number [of] agreements between the two countries". He added that the Moroccan Government had agreed during last year's conference of moneylenders to provide assistance for some projects in Equatorial Guinea.

"I think that that in the current circumstances in which South-South cooperation has become necessary, friendly countries should consult on agreements paving the way to a harmonious development," he concluded.

The Equatorial Guinean president is accompanied by the ministers of state for foreign affairs, the minister delegate to the presidency in charge of mines and [word indistinct], and the deputy minister and secretary general of the presidency of the republic.

SUDAN

National Security Council Discusses Situation
JN231630 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Nov (SUNA) — The National Security Council held its periodic meeting here today under 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib, first vice president and the chairman of the National Security Council. The council discussed the security situation in the country in the wake of the incidents which recently took place in the Upper Nile region in southern Sudan. The council was also breifed by Hamid 'Ali Shash, governor of the eastern region, on the security situation in the region. The council expressed satisfaction with the measures that were adopted to safeguard the safety of the homeland and the security of its territory. The council praised the People's Armed Forces' performance in epulsing the aggression and releasing the hostages in (?Pantoi) and Jonglei.

Numayri Cables Assembly Speaker, Hails Armed Forces
EA231903 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Nov 83

[Text] Prime Minister Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, commander in chief of the People's Armed Forces and minister of defense, has sent the following cable to the speaker of the People's Assembly and the deputy commander in chief of the People's Armed Forces:

From the commander in chief and minister of defense to the speaker of the People's Assembly and the commander, Khartoum, and deputy commander in chief: With the constancy of the soldier who believes in his commitment to fight in defense of the destinies of his homeland and his nation, I have received the report on your historic sitting which you held yesterday to salute your courageous Armed Forces, to renew your confidence and express your pride in them, to praise the performance of our soldiers and the sacrifices of our men in the south of the homeland in defense of the integrity of Sudan, to safeguard the gains of the sons of the south and the north, and to resist the enemies of unity and peace.

I have heard from afar the echoes of your sitting in the esteemed assembly and your sincere feelings toward your Armed Forces. I praise God who has given us such soldiers, so faithful, so true in combat. I praise the Almighty for granting them the sincerity to keep their word, fulfill their pledges, and sincerely uphold their principles and self-sacrifice in defense of the homeland.

The men of our courageous Armed Forces will always remain the entrenched support of the homeland in its great leap forward. Your soldiers will always remain whenever they are conscious of your loyalty to and appreciation of them. Your words, which sounded through the halls of your assembly, will re-echo in every trench and every garrison throughout our dear homeland. You are their spokesmen, the firm voice loudly repeating the truth. A nation whose Army is firm in what is right can only reach the peaks of glory, despite the malice of the unbelievers.

May you, brothers, remain the conscience of the people throbbing with their feelings and sentiments. May your soldiers remain a hand holding aloft the prestige of Sudan and support for the will of the sons of Sudan. God is great. God is great. May He be praised.

First Vice President Receives Egyptian Official

EA250009 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] At noon yesterday Major General 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib, first vice president of the republic, received in his office at the People's Palace Mr Safwat ash-Sharif, Egyptian minister of state for information, who is currently visiting the country. Mr Muhammad Khawjali Salihin, minister of guidance and national information, and Mr Ashmad 'Izzat 'Abd al-Latif, Egyptian ambassador in Khartoum, attended the meeting.

Following the meeting, Mr Safwat ash-Sharif issued a press statement in which he said that during the meeting with the first vice president of the republic he conveyed greetings from Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to the Sudanese people and his assurance of Egypt's continual support for Sudan. His excellency declared that the first vice president briefed him on the efforts being made by the ministers of information in the two countries and on decisions in the field of information, including a decision to commence Nile valley radio transmission at the beginning of 1984.

Nile Valley Radio Station To Broadcast 1 Jan

JN242053 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1754 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Nov (SUNA) — A press release was issued here today on the Sudanese-Egyptian talks concerning the establishment of the Nile valley broadcasting station. The talks began on 22 November under Muhammad Khujali Salihin, Sudanese minister of information and national guidance, and his Egyptian counterpart, Safwat ash-Sharif.

The press release said that the Nile valley station will begin broadcasting on 1 January and will be the mouthpiece of the Nile valley and its people. This will be in implementation of the Higher Integration Council's decisions that were adopted in Alexandria on 10 September. The station will initially broadcast for 4 hours: 1 hour in the morning 0700-0800, and 3 hours in the evening 1700-2000.

The station will have a higher committee for programs in which the integration general secretariat will be represented. The committee will include three members from each side. It will have a director general to be posted in Cairo, and a deputy director general to be posted in Khartoum. Satellites will connect Cairo with Khartoum to enable the Nile valley station to transmit a true picture of Sudan's activities. A weekly television program will be transmitted to enable Egyptian television to show aspects of Sudan's activities.

The two sides also discussed the means of promoting cooperation in the field of coordinating the two countries' information policy abroad. The media centers in Egypt and Sudan will be supplied with documents and publications dealing with the process of integration in the various political, economic, social, and historical fields. Mobile Egyptian-Sudanese exhibitions will be opened to reflect the historical and cultural aspects of the Nile valley.

Mubarak Briefs At-Tayyib on Visit to Chad

JN232030 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1725 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Nov (SUNA) — Staff Major General 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib, first vice president, today received Sudanese Foreign Minister Muhammad Mirghani Mubarak. After the meeting, Mubarak said that he had conveyed a message to At-Tayyib from Chadian President Hissein Habre addressed to President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri. In this message, Habre voices his approval of Sudan's efforts under the leadership of President Numayri and expresses thanks for his bearing of Chad's worries wherever he goes. Habre affirms that the view of the two countries are identical concerning the national reconciliation in Chad.

Mubarak noted that Habre's message to Numayri deals with the latter's talks in Italy and France concerning the Chadian problem. He said that Sudan has convinced these parties of the method by which this problem would be resolved, in particular national reconciliation, because Numayri is well experienced in this respect. He added that the message concentrates on the need to not interfere in Chad's internal affairs, emphasizing that the current Chadian legitimate government is the party which should negotiate for the Chadian national reconciliation.

About the role which Sudan will play in the Chadian national reconciliation, Mubarak affirmed that Sudan will play a major role in this respect due to its long experience in such matters. He also affirmed that the Chadian problem directly and indirectly concerns Sudan. He said that Habre has always called for national reconciliation in Chad. He added that during his recent visit to Chad he explained to Chadian officials the recent events in Sudan, affirming that the Chadian officials were not surprised by such acts of sabotage which are being carried out by the Libyan regime because this is how this regime always behaves in Africa.

It is worth noting that Mubarak returned to Sudan yesterday following a short visit to Chad during which he conveyed a message to President Habre from President Numayri concerning the results of Numayri's recent visit to Italy and France with regard to the Chadian problem.

TUNISIA

Bourguiba Cables Klibi on Palestinian Fighting

LD240013 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text of cable sent by President Habib Bourguiba to Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi; date not given — read by announcer]

[Text] I have received your cable of 20 November 1983. I share your agony and bewilderment. Had it not been for the gravity of the situation into which the Arab nation has plunged and the disgraceful conditions that are threatening to destroy the Palestinian question, I would not have proposed an urgent conference of Arab kings and presidents.

However, in view of the real need for the adoption of a firm stand to spare the blood and prevent a coup de grace to the Palestinian cause and, consequently, common Arab solidarity, I advise you to contact the Arab leaders either by telephone or cable to discuss the following points:

1. The issuance of an official public call in the name of the heads of Arab countries to the warring factions to cease fighting within 12 hours.

2. The warning to these factions that no response to the call will be tantamount to abandoning the Arab ranks and to insisting on endangering the highest Arab interests, and will lead to the Arab nation disclaiming any responsibility for the ensuing consequences.

3. In the event that the call is accepted, an Arab follow-up committee would be sent heading a joint Arab military mission, consisting of countries other than those of the frontline, in order to separate the warring sides and settle matters between them, provided that the Arab League initially bear the cost of all this.

4. In the event of both acceptance and rejection, an urgent meeting of the Arab foreign ministers should be summoned to discuss political and military matters.

5. The speeding up of the convocation of an Arab summit conference to adopt all necessary decisions regarding the future of Palestinian action and Arab solidarity.

Prime Minister Receives PLO Representative

LD241049 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali received this evening at the government palace in Kasba Mr Hakam Bal'awi, PLO representative to Tunisia. Bal'awi stated to TAP after the meeting that he discussed with the prime minister the current situation of the Palestinian cause and its recent developments, especially in northern Lebanon. He added that he informed Mr Mohamed Mzali about the huge conspiracy to which the Palestinian revolution is exposed and which is aimed at damaging the struggle of the Palestinian people. He also informed him about the Arab moves to confront the fierce conspiracy that is plotted against the Palestinian people and its revolution. Mr Hakim Bal'awi said that the plea that President Habib Bourguiba has announced for the protection of the Palestinian revolution and the PLO and for the support of its leadership in its struggle against the Zionist enemy had a great effect and a favorable impression on the Palestinian leadership headed by Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], and on the sons of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation who are commited to the protection of the Palestinian revolution. The PLO representative added that the prime minister has shown complete understanding and high esteem of the gathering of the Palestinian masses around the PLO, its sole legitimate representative under the leadership of Yasir 'Arafat. He also expressed his admiration for the heroic steadfastness by which the forces of the Palestinian revolution face the hostile and treacherous attacks against it. Mr Hakam Bal'awi explained that he has conveyed to Mr Mohamed Mzali, and through him to President Habib Bourguiba and the Tunisian people, the greetings and esteem of the Palestinian leaders, headed by Mr Yasir 'Arafat; the greetings of all the Palestinian fighters; and their appreciation for the principled and steadfast stances by Tunisia in its continuous support for the struggle of the Palestinian people and its revolution.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

AFP: MPLC Ready for Talks With Kolingba Regime

AB241450 Paris AFP in English 1421 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] Libreville, nov 24 (AFP) — The opposition Centrafrican People's Liberation Movement (MLPC) is ready to have talks with the military regime in Bangui, according to an MPLC statement received here. The movement, led by one-time CentrAfrican Premier Ange Patasse, stressed however that "national reconciliation" required the unconditional release of all political prisoners.

The statement follows the opening on Monday in Bangui of a trial of four leading members of the MPLC in connection with an attempted coup in March 1982 against the regime of General Andre Kolingba. Mr Patasse himself took refuge in the French Embassy in Bangui after the coup failed and was subsequently sent into exile in Togo.

The MPLC statement also said that it favored the forming of a "united front" of all Centrafrican opposition groups with the aim of opening a process of dialogue with the military regime. The statement denied the MPLC took part in a meeting of opposition figures on August 5 at Moyenne Sido, inside the Central African Republic, at which a new organization, the Centrafrican Revolutionary Party (PRC), was created.

The new party is believed to be aiming to unite all groups opposed to General Kolingba.

CHAD

French Presidential Adviser Arrives in Ndjamena

AB231035 Paris AFP in French 0946 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] Ndjamena, 23 Nov (AFP) — Guy Penne, French President Francois Mitterrand's special adviser on African and Malagasy affairs, arrived in Ndjamena early this morning from Niamey. The duration of his visit is not known but he will be received late this morning by Chadian President Hissein Habre.

OAU Delegation Arrives for Talks With Habre

EA221354 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0900 GMT 22 Nov 83

[Text] An OAU delegation led by Comrade Goshu Wolde, minister of foreign affairs and member of the COPWE Central Committee, has arrived in Ndjamena to hold talks with President Habre on the Chadian issue. The delegation, which includes interim OAU Secretary General Peter Onu, arrived in Chad yesterday after holding talks with French Government officials on the same issue. In a statement on arrival in Ndjamena, Comrade Goshu Wolde noted that Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of Provisional Military Administrative Council and COPWE, commander in chief of the revolutionary Armed Forces, and current chairman of the OAU, is making great efforts to resolve the Chadian problem in a peaceful manner. During its stay in Ndjamena, the Goshu Wolde-led delegation will hold talks with President Habre to seek a lasting solution to the Chadian problem.

Miskine Cited on Penne, OAU Peace Efforts

AB232010 Paris AFP in French 1720 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] Ndjamena, 23 November (AFP) — On Wednesday Chadian authorities were cautiously optimistic about efforts being made toward "national reconciliation" in their country, soon after the departure from Ndjamena of an OAU mission and upon the arrival in the capital of President Francois Mitterrand's adviser for African affairs Guy Penne. Yesterday the OAU delegation, led by Ethiopian Minister of Foreign Affairs Lieutenant Colonel Goshu Wolde and including acting OAU Secretary General Peter Onu, delivered a message from current OAU Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam to President Hissein Habre. It also held talks with Minister of Foreign Affairs Idriss Miskine.

Commenting on the talks on Wednesday, Mr Miskine considered that one could not speak of "identical views" between the OAU mission and the Ndjamena government on the Chadian crisis. President Habre exposed to this mission the "government's conception" of national reconciliation, and the OAU envoys reported on the contacts made so far, he added, without giving any further details.

The Chadian minister of foreign affairs has on several occasions expressed his government's "total readiness" to find a political solution to the Chadian problem through negotiations. "The dialogue is open to all opponents and all the discontented" in order to resolve the crisis, Mr Miskine asserted, adding that Ndjamena has no preconditions for a reconciliation meeting with "the opposing Chadian brother."

He said that without being "overly optimistic" about the chances of achieving this "national reconciliation," the Chadian Government is convinced that "only peace can enable Chad to develop." In Mr Miskine's opinion, the only obstacle to this "political reunion" between Chadians is Libya: "Our only fear is of Libya which has never wanted peace in Chad," he said. The Chadian minister asserted that "Despite the occupation since 1973 of the Aouzou region in northern Chad by Libya, Hissein Habre's government has been seeking means of entering into contact with Tripoli in order to settle the difference between the two countries peacefully."

The Chadian minister said he "does not know" if the visit of Mr Penne to Ndjamena on Wednesday was connected to diplomatic moves aimed at reconciliation between Chadians. Mr Miskine, stressed, however, that since France, is "military omnipotent in Chad," the adviser to President Mitterrand could, during his visit, discuss with Chadians ways of resolving the crisis. Nothing was known of the talks which Mr Penne held with President Habre in the Chadian capital. Informed sources stated that the discussions centered on bilateral issues.

Finally, Mr Miskine affirmed that relations between France and Chad were "good." The Chadian Government appreciates the various forms of aid which Paris gives to Ndjamena, he added.

For its part, discussing the diplomatic shuttles to Chad, the Chadian news agency (ATP — official) pointed out on Tuesday "that the options and the gains of the third republic (Hissein Habe's government) will remain the basis of this national reconstruction."

Government Agrees to Reconciliation Meeting

AB250850 Paris AFP in French 0806 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] Ndjamena, 25 Nov (AFP) — The Chadian Government has agreed to a reconciliation meeting between warring Chadian factions scheduled to take place soon in Addis Ababa, it was announced in a communique published after a cabinet meeting held on Thursday in Ndjamena. The communique stated that this "roundtable meeting between the government and the opposing or discontented brothers living outside" will take place "soon" but added that the date has "not yet been set."

The Ndjamena government added that to its view this meeting should not have any preconditions and it said it favored the "greatest possible understanding among Chadians." The Chadian Government's decision to participate in the Addis Ababa meeting "is dictated by its constant concern for the restoration of peace and perfect concord among Chadians," the communique concluded.

Bardai Reiterates GUNT Mediation Conditions

AB232030 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] Namibia, Western Sahara, and Chad test the ability of the OAU to resolve these armed conflicts created by international imperialism. Not only does it engage the destiny of the continent, but also the future of the continental organization. Concerning the Chadian conflict, the current chairman of the OAU seems to have adopted a silent diplomacy to enable the factions to explore all possible ways of settling the Chadian conflict and secondly to find a way to bring the conflicting parties to the negotiating table.

Concerning the civil war in Chad, in which extra-African powers have directly involved themselves, which could lead to an international conflagration with unpredictable consequences, the OAU should once more show its mettle. The continental organization seems to enjoy the confidence of all African leaders and even of Paris whose emissaries recently visited Addis Ababa. This mark of confidence enjoyed by the pan-African organization, despite the shady activities of the imperialists, is a great asset for the settlement of the Chadian conflict. We have just learned from press reports that the current chairman of the OAU has launched a new diplomatic offensive through the Ethiopian minister of foreign affairs, Mr Wolde, who is accompanying the acting secretary general of the OUA, Peter Onu, and who have been staying in the French capital. This delegation held detailed talks with French authorities. We have no further details of their talks. All that we know is that the envoys of the current chairman of the OAU will later visit several African capitals including Tripoli, Lagos, and Algiers. Evidently, it is too early to make comments on the outcome of this new initiative of the OAU chairman and the secretary general. Good sense commands that we observe and calmly observe how things work out.

The Transitional National Union Government [GUNT] of Chad and its leaders have on several occasions agreed in principle on the OAU as a medium for the settlement of the Chadian conflict, but only on the condition that the pan-African organization acts by itself without any extra-African manipulations. The compulsory stopover in Paris has nothing to do with any polticial alliance since the OAU is aware of the presence of the French Army in Chad and Mitterrand's option for a negotiated settlement despite their support for the bloody regime of Ndjamena.

This, in our view, is as far as the role of France should go. That is to say, France should help the OAU find an honorable end to the conflict. The rest should be left to Africans to settle their own affairs to the displeasure of the Ndjamena executioners who minimize the present diplomatic efforts to the extent of describing them as diplomatic palaver.

In fact, according to reliable sources, the national annihilation forces, supported by Zairian forces and regular Sudanese soldiers, at the request of the American Administration are feverishly preparing to attack National Liberation Army positions following an American plan aimed at sabotaging OAU efforts being made for the settlement of the Chadian conflict.

Sudan's Mubarak Confers With Habre, Comments

JN222253 Khartoum SUNA in English 1740 GMT 22 Nov 83

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Nov (SUNA) — Chadian President Hissein Habre received here today the Sudanese Minister of Foreign Affairs Muhammad Mirghani Mubarak in the presence of Chadian External Affairs Minister Idriss Miskine, the director of President Habre's office, and the Sudanese ambassador to Chad. After the reception Mubarak announced that he has communicated a verbal message from President Numayri to his Chadian counterpart in the context of the continuous consultations between them. Mubarak stated that he has informed President Habre with the results of President Numayri's talks in Italy and France on what concerns the Chadian problem.

Responding to a question about Sudan's role and its participation in finding a solution to the Chadian problem from inside the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Mubarak said that [it] has called on all African states concerned with the Chadian problem to take just stances and to adopt the point of view of the legitimate government in the national reconciliation talks.

About the recent incidents in southern Sudan Mubarak announced that the Libyan regime used to revoke [as received] Sudan but the Sudanese Armed Forces used to respond severly. But the application of the Islamic Sharia laws in Sudan Mubarak announced that this is not a new matter for Sudan expressing his surprise for the attack of some European countries to these laws.

Mubarak arrived here today morning on a short visit.

CONGO

Spanish King Concludes State Visit to Country

Banquet Remarks

AB231855 Brazzaville Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Summary] "Yesterday, the Spanish royal couple attended a banquet given in their honor by the Congolese presidential couple. The toasts made by the president of the republic and King Juan Carlos I demonstrate the desire of the two countries to maintain excellent relations. In his toast, the chairman of the Central Committee expressed the hope of seeing Spain and Congo work hand in hand for the advent of a pluralistic world based on dialogue."

[Begin recording] "Despite the diversity of the political options, Spain and Congo can contribute to the establishment and the development of a pluralistic world based on dialogue, mutual respect, and active cooperation." "Given the political willingness of us both, I am convinced that Spain and Congo can work together and obtain results that are at the level of their expectations, their know-how, and their ambitions." [end recording]

"Speaking on relations between Spain and Congo, King Juan Carlos I pledged to make every effort to strengthen the bilateral cooperation already existing between them."

[Begin recording] "In the field of bilateral relations, our respective governments and especially the two presidents are committed to deepening the relations of cooperation that already exist." "They are also committed to seeking new ways to foster understanding and cooperation." [end recording]

Foreign Ministers' Press Conference

AB231700 Brazzaville Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Summary] As we have already told you, the Spanish and Congolese foreign ministers continued with their discussions and later gave a press conference attended by the Spanish journalists accompanying King Juan Carlos I as well as by reporters from various press organs in the capital. Olivier Para represented Radio Congo at the conference. Here is his report:

The main topics of this press conference were the prospects of future relations and the possibility of concluding agreements of economic, cultural, scientific, and technical cooperation. A number of projects were also mentioned. The Spanish foreign minister, answering reporters' questions, talked about future Congolese-Spanish cooperation in the economic, cultural, scientific, and technical fields. "The prospects are promising particularly with the forthcoming arrival in Brazzaville of a high-ranking Spanish delegation which will help to put this new cooperation into concrete form."

"Concerning Spain's membership in the EEC, the Spanish minister pointed out that some difficulties still exist as far as fishery and agriculture are concerned. To this must be added the dispute with France which, according to him, wants to turn the agricultural policy in its favor. The Spanish minister said that if the negotiations, which will soon open in Athens, are successful, the way will be open for Spain to join the Common Market."

"Concerning Western Sahara, the Spanish minister reaffirmed the Saharan people's right to self-determination and his support for the OAU resolutions concerning a referendum in this territory. Lebanon did not fail to retain the attention of the journalists. In this regard, the Spanish minister stressed the need to respect the right of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO, their sole and legitimate representative."

Congolese Foreign Minister Pierre Nze also answered reporters' questions. There were two main points: The legal framework between Congo and Spain and Equatorial Guinea's membership of the Central African Customs and Economic Union [UDEAC]. Concerning the first point, he said there is practically no legal framework to govern bilateral relations between Congo and Spain. "This legal framework will be created in the very near future, he said."

Concerning the second point, Minister Nze announced that the problem of Equatorial Guinea's admission to the UDEAC has been resolved as far as the political aspect is concerned, adding that only the technical aspect remains. He said experts were examining the technical aspects of this problem, especially the monetary, financial, and other aspects. "In any case, said the Congolese minister, this question will be reexamined during the next UDEAC session which will open in December in Bangui."

Results of Talks

AB231750 Brazzaville Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] King Juan Carlos I and his wife Queen Sofia will leave us at 1500 this afternoon at the end of their 48-hour official visit to Congo. It will be only an au revoir because this interdependent world we want to build will one day offer an opportunity to the two men, King Juan Carlos and President Sassou-Nguesso, to meet again. The last day of the Spanish king's visit was devoted to discussions with our head of state. Following is a report by Antoine Malounga:

The last day of the official visit of their majesties the king and queen of Spain was very busy at the levels of both the heads of state and the foreign ministers. The king and the president this morning held another private discussion during President Denis Sassou-Nguesso's courtesy call on the Spanish sovereign. The toasts proposed by both of them during last night's banquet sufficiently informed us about the issues discussed as well as about their respective positions, which are convergent.

For their part, the two foreign ministers, accompanied by their close collaborators, continued with the discussions that began yesterday. At the end of the discussions, the two ministers gave a press conference during which they answered questions posed by Spanish, Congolese, and other foreign journalists. An official report was issued following the discussions held by the two parties

on the occasion of the official visit made to the People's Republic of Congo by their majesties the king and queen of Spain. This document was signed by Foreign Ministers Fernando Moran and Pierre Nze at 1245 at the conference hall of the Ministry of Cooperation.

I am almost certain that there is a question on the lips of all the Congolese concerning the concrete results of the discussions. Well, in order to remove all misunderstandings and confusion, we must say that the discussions held by the two delegations were political discussions between the heads of state on the one hand, and the two foreign ministers on the other. Apart from exchanging views on international issues, the two parties — allow me the term — cleared the way for bilateral cooperation. Cooperation between states is governed by a number of conditions. It demands a legal framework. But this framework is lacking in the case of Congo and Spain, which President Denis Sassou-Nguesso said he was unhappy about in his toast yesterday. Things must start from the beginning.

The two parties expressed great satisfaction concerning the discussions they had in Brazzaville. In any case, the Spanish foreign minister declared a few moments ago during the press conference that the horizon opening up in the bilateral field is perhaps the richest offered to Spain in terms of cooperation with developing countries. The two parties did not sign any agreement this time but they agreed to sign agreements of economic, commercial, cultural, scientific, and technical cooperation. The Spanish director general of cooperation will soon come to Brazzaville. He will be accompanied by many Spanish experts. On this occasion, the experts of both countries will thoroughly reexamine the numerous draft bilateral agreements.

Let us recall that in his toast last night King Juan Carlos I said: My country admires the results achieved by the Congolese people. Spain will always support Congo in this effort and offers its aid and cooperation as far as it can.

For his part, the Congolese head of state expressed his conviction that Spain and Congo can work together and achieve results befitting their resources, their know-how, and their friendship. This conviction is shared by all.

Their majesties the king and queen of Spain will leave Brazzaville at 1500 this afternoon. All is well that ends well.

Cameroonian Joint Commission Issues Communique

AB241635 Brazzaville Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Communique issued in Brazzaville on 24 November at the end of the Congolese-Cameroonian Joint Commission meeting]

[Text] The two delegations expressed satisfaction over the positive results that have already been obtained within their bilateral cooperation. They also adopted effective measures to further strengthen the multiform relations existing between the two countries in the interest of the two peoples. During his stay in the Republic of Congo, the head of the Cameroonian delegation visited the African (?wood) industry and was received in audience by His Excellency Colonel Denis Sassou-Nguesso, president of the Central Committee of the Congolese Labor Party, president of the republic, head of state, and president of the Ministerial Council, to whom he gave a message from his brother and friend, His Excellency Paul Biya, president of the United Republic of Cameroon. The Congolese head of state asked him to reiterate to the Cameroonian head of state his sentiments of friendship and brotherhood.

The leader of the Cameroonian delegation expressed on behalf of the delegation and on his own behalf his sincere gratitude to His Excellency Colonel Denis Sassou-Nguesso, his government, and the Congolese people for the fraternal and warm welcome accorded them during their stay in Congolese territory, as well as all the attention and tender care which contributed to the smooth running of the second session of the Congolese-Cameroonian Joint Commission meeting. The two delegations agreed to hold the third session of the Joint Commission in Yaounde in 1985 at a date that will be fixed through diplomatic channels.

GABON

AFP: Mitterrand Adviser To Try To Settle Dispute

AB222325 Paris AFP in French 1442 GMT 22 Nov 83

[Text] Libreville, 22 Nov (AFP) — Francois de Grossouvre, adviser to French President Francois Mitterrand, arrived in Libreville on Tuesday to attempt to settle the French-Gabonese dispute following the recent publication in France of the book written by Pierre Pean entitled *Affaires Africains*, which dealt with "particular" relations between the two countries. Mr de Grossouvre, who will stay in Libreville less than 48 hours, is expected to be received by President Omar Bongo.

Up until now, the national press has kept silent over the arrival of the French emissary in the Gabonese capital. Gabonese media as well as the pan-African radio station Africa No 1, which is headquartered in Libreville, have continued to boycott all news items on France or references to the role of France in the world, observers note. This measure was taken exactly 1 month ago by the Gabonese authorities as a protest against the publication of Mr Pean's book. The publicity given to it by the French media was seen as "malicious" by the African state.

Another French emissary, Roland Dumas, a lawyer and a friend of Mr Mitterrand, visited Libreville 30-31 October to attempt to end the quarrel. President Bongo handed Mr Dumas a "memorandum" containing all of Gabon's "recorded grievances" against France in the past few years. The mission of the French lawyer, it seemed, was unsuccessful. In fact, a few days later, a statement signed by Gabonese Information Minister Zacharie Myboto denounced attempts to destabilize the Bongo government from French soil and stated the desire of Gabon to draw the necessary conclusions "when the time comes."

According to well-informed sources, economic and commercial relations could in the long run be affected by the dispute between Paris and Libreville. The apparent success of the visit to Gabon less than 1 week ago of Mr Chester Crocker, U.S. assistant

secretary of state for African affairs, is still interpreted by observers in Libreville as an expression of concern of Gabonese officials to diversify their relations of cooperation with other countries. On that occasion, Mr Bongo recalled that Gabon remains firmly prepared to "cooperate with all those who think that independence is something important." Within the present context of relations between Gabon and France, this statement as well as the visit by Mr Crocker must have a significant meaning, according to observers.

Holds Talks With Bongo

AB241048 Paris AFP in English 0948 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] Libreville, Nov 24 (AFP) — French President Francois Mitterrand's special adviser Francois de Grossouvre had four hours of talks here with Gabonese President Omar Bongo in a bid to sort out the row between the two countries, reliable sources said. Gabon banned reporting of all news about France following the publication of *Affaires Africaines*, a controversial book by French journalist Pierre Pean on Franco-Gabonese relations. The press has maintained its silence about Mr de Grossouvre's visit and no details of yesterday's meeting have been released. Mr de Grossouvre has also had talks with representatives of the 25,000 French people living in Gabon.

ZAIRE

Government Condemns Turkish Cypriot Independence

AB241350 Paris AFP in French 1109 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] Kinshasa, 24 Nov (AFP) — In a statement issued yesterday by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Zaire has condemned the unilateral declaration of independence on 15 November of the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus." Explaining Zaire's position and opposition to all forms of secession "no matter where it takes place," the communique states: "Zaire, which believes that the island of Cyprus is a nonaligned [words indistinct], also thinks that it is a good policy that every state, no matter its distance from Cyprus, should contribute to the efforts to find equitable solutions to the internal problems of Cyprus and at the same time formally desist from giving the impression that Cyprus is under the protection of one state or another."

BENIN

Libyan Delegation Continues Visit; Aid Reported

AB230940 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 22 Nov 83

[Summary] "The delegation of the Association for Peace in Islam is continuing its mission in our country. After a 19-day visit, the members were received in audience this morning by our great comrade in arms." The delegation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah presented to President Kerekou the projects the association intends to undertake in Benin, particularly the construction of a new hospital in Cotonou. "The delegation has already visited all the six provinces, where it distributed essential drugs to the people."

The discussions between the president and the delegation centered on the construction of a new Cotonou hospital. The two parties agreed on the main characteristics of the hospital. "The new hospital will have a capacity for 300 beds distributed as follows: general medicine, 96 beds; surgery, 72; psychiatry, 34; traumatology and ophthalmology, 32; and maternity care, 66."

CAPE VERDE

Communique Issued on Portugal's Gama Visit

AB231100 Paris AFP in French 0730 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] Praia, 23 Nov (AFP) — Portugal and Cape Verde Islands signed yesterday a general cooperation agreement, a joint communique issued at the end of Portuguese Foreign Affairs Minister Jaime Gama's official visit to Praia indicated. No details were given on the contents and areas covered by the agreement which was signed by the foreign affairs ministers of the two countries, Jaime Gama (Portugal) and Silvino da Luz (Cape Verde).

Analyzing the international political situation, the communique stated, the two ministers expressed their support for the independence struggle of the people of Namibia and condemned "the racist policy of South Africa" as well as its violations of the territories of neighboring countries. They also expressed their support for the frontline countries, especially for Angola and Mozambique, victims of South Africa's acts of destabilization and aggression, the communique added. The text further stated that Portugal and Cape Verde also condemned the illegal occupation of East Timor by Indonesia and expressed their determination to pursue their diplomatic and political efforts for the solution of this problem "to the benefit of the people of East Timor."

GHANA

Government 'Surprise' Over Expulsion Reported

AB232022 Accra Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] The news of the expulsion of Ghana's charge d'affaires, Mr Kwesi Sackey, from Liberia following a reported coup attempt against the regime of Mr Samuel Doe comes as a surprise to the Government of Ghana. The simultaneous expulsion of the ambassador of the USSR and the Ghanaian diplomat is a true and ridiculous attempt to associate Ghana with the USSR in a blatantly false conspiracy to destabilize an African country and also to enroll Ghana in superpower rivalries. It also demonstrates a desperate attempt by the enemies and detractors of the revolution to undermine the efforts of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] to develop relations with all countries based on the principles of nonalignement.

In line with this policy, the government has vigorously condemned attempts by big powers to interfere in the internal affairs of the Third World as a matter of principle. The apparent explanation for the expulsion of the charge d'affaires is a continuation of a vicious campaign against the revolutionary process. The Government of Ghana deeply regrets that Mr Doe has allowed himself to be manipulated in such a manner as may affect the very cordial relations that exist between us and considers any implied allegation against Mr Kwesi Sackey as childish and absurb.

Soviet Official Arrives for Friendship Congress

AB250702 Paris AFP in English 1704 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] Accra, Nov 24 (AFP) — Vasiliy Medvedev, Soviet deputy minister for local industries and a leader of the Soviet Association for Friendship With the Peoples of Africa, has arrived here for the 10th biennial congress of the Ghana-USSR Friendship Society scheduled for next Saturday and Sunday. During his stay Mr Medvedev will have talks with industrial, scientific and technology authorities here and with officials of the Accra city council, an official statement said.

GUINEA

Toure Addresses Closing 12th PDG Congress

AB222335 Conakry Domestic Service in French 1245 GMT 22 Nov 83

[Address by President Ahmed Sekou Toure to the closing session of the 12th Congress of the Democratic Party of Guinea held in Conakry on 21 November — recorded]

[Excerpts] Your Excellencies, honorable invited members of delegations, comrade cadres of the party-state of Guinea. We have come to the end of our congress, which ran from Wednesday, 16 [November] to Monday, 21 November 1983. We have come to the 12th stage of a historical march, whose objective is to gradually ensure the emancipation of our people. This means our party remains the major instrument that guides our people.

Our party continually analyzes our own society to discern the major aspects for a rapid but harmonious development; the conditions for the participation of everyone in the building of the nation; the conditions of the security of everyone within the society; as well as the deficiencies and faults we have to correct if we want to be counted among the builders of the society. The struggle we are engaged in can be expressed in several forms and

several directions. That is why we say, it is a global struggle of several dimensions.

Everything is acquired through hard work and effort. Nobody else in the world can work for our well-being. That is why we say we are responsible for our own lot, and we can improve this lot if we assume our daily responsibilites. But for man to rise to his highest dimensions, nothing in society should block him. Hence, the absolute need for man to achieve his well-being through the well-being of the society. For man to be emancipated, for women to be emancipated, this emancipation should be the affairs of the entire society. And this will depend on the type of interrelations within the society; it depends on the idea people have about their fellow men, about the nation, and about the world in general. The main task of the Democratic Party of Guinea [PDG], therefore, is to organize a new society in Guinea.

If the people remain honest, hardworking, and carry out their daily duties, if each one of you sees each Guinean as a reflection of himself and makes his own contribution to the enlightenment and the desire for progress of each Guinean, if everyone gives the fruits of his thoughts to the party and participates in the creative action, then happiness will become a reality in families, in the regions, and throughout the nation. [applause] This means that the cadres who live in bungalows, in castles, who go around in cars, sit in armchairs, have all kinds of household equipment and appliances such as radios, televisions, and air conditioners must not forget that our fathers and mothers are in the villages. [applause]

When thinking of these people, we must ask ourselves individually, what can we do to raise the living standards of these people I descend from, who brought me into the world and made me what I am? If everyone thinks before acting and remains permanently guided by the spirit of justice, the desire to [words indistinct], then the PDG cadres will create the happiness of our Guinea. The cadres are deceiving themselves by deceiving the people. They are destroying the procedure for the masses' happiness. They are dominated by the spirit of selfishness, of stealing, of cheating. They block the revolution by committing acts of treason, the most ignoble act of all since it destroys the faith of an entire people.

Our people have suffered and continue to suffer not only from natural disasters but also from ills originating from our cadres. [applause] Among us there are cheats, liars, thieves, and those who embezzle public funds. Among us there are those who violate social laws, and there are cadres who though they say "Long Live the Revolution" in public, go against it in their homes when they beat their wives. [applause] They talk of equality only during conferences and fail to practice it daily in their homes.

We do not want to appear to be what we are not. Let us be ourselves. Let us assume our identity and our reality and let us adopt a realistic and fair policy. To do this we must put an end to waste. And yet, though we tell the young members of the Youth of the African Democratic Revolution not to have society weddings and not to hold pompous youth gatherings, they go ahead and do these things.

Angolan President Sends Message to Toure

MB240715 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola, has sent a personal message to Ahmed Sekou Toure, the head of state of Guinea. Bearing the message is Comrade Pedro de Castro Van Dunem Loi, the Angolan minister of energy and petroleum, who is on an official visit to the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea.

IVORY COAST

Houphouet, FRG's Carstens Banquet Remarks Reported

AB231300 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 0745 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Excerpts] Now on the 3d day of his visit to the Ivory Coast, the FRG president will leave today for the capital of our country, Yamoussokro, where the heads of state will hold private talks. The 2d day of his visit was highlighted yesterday evening by the banquet given in honor of Mr and Mrs Karl Carstens by the President and Mrs Houphouet-Boigny at the presidential palace. President Houphouet was the first to speak. He first expressed satisfaction over relations between Ivory Coast and the FFG. He then talked about the areas of cooperation between Ivory Coast and West Germany and revealed his concept of development aid.

[Begin Houphouet-Boigny recording] Having stressed since independence, rentlessly and in all forums I have attended, that direct aid — regardless of how much it is needed and appreciated — is only a palliative. We want more than anything else to acquire the means for our development by selling on the market the products of our work at prices which are just and profitable. I do not pretend to be a spokesman for my African brothers, even less for the workers and farmers of our continent. But I am deeply convinced that this approach to development is the only one that encourages progress, that safeguards dignity, and prevents all temptations to renunciation and revolt. Your compatriot, Goethe, wrote: I like a person (?who strives) for the impossible. [end recording]

The FRG president also talked about cooperation between Ivory Coast and the FRG, concerning which he expressed satisfaction. He said his visit will only strengthen this cooperation. He also paid tribute to President Houphouet-Boigny's policies.

[Begin Carstens recording] My official visit is aimed at underscoring the esteem we in Germany have for your country. It is aimed at continuing and intensifying our dialogue with you on issues facing our countries, Africa, and the whole world. In a world where there is growing interdependence, European and African states have become neighbors. The two continents are natural partners preparing a common future. Ivory Coast is respected in the whole world. This is due to the policies of which you are the artisan, Mr President, and for which you have continued to assume responsibility. The priorities of these policies are based on strengthening your country's independence and

increasing the prosperity of its citizens. Because of its internal stability, Ivory Coast has assumed its responsibilities within the African community. By carrying out close regional cooperation, you are increasingly and carefully, Mr President, working for increased African unity, an ideal that is shared by all African states. Ivory Coast is a founding member of the most important African organizations, that is to say the Entente Council, the African and Mauritian Common Organization, the West African Economic Community, and the OAU.

Europeans and Africans are aware that the era of a narrow-minded nationalism has passed. Our people believe that they can only safeguard their particular characteristics and their freedom through cooperation and by forming an alliance with friendly states who have the same convictions. That is why we understand and we support your African policies. It is only Africa's nonalignment to which you aspire that can ensure the peaceful and independent development of this continent, which is rich in human and natural resources.

True nonalignment makes Africa a stabilizing factor in world politics and enables it to resolve regional conflicts which cause so many casualties and waste the resources needed for peaceful development. In saying this, I am especially thinking about Chad, a country that is so strife-torn. I would like to call on the leaders to resolve the present conflict through decisions in accordance with the OAU Charter. We are also concerned about the situation in southern Africa. The Namibian people cannot continue to be denied their independence. The FRG strongly supports the solution adopted by the Security Council in Resolution 435. Like its African friends, it believes that lasting peace can be achieved only when apartheid is eliminated. However, a peaceful future cannot be ensured through military might but only through negotiations. The belief that there should be the same dignity for all peoples is an historical force. I believe that the right of peoples to self-determination will triumph. Mr President, for us Germans, our attachment to the right to self-determination and to policies of peace and conciliation is not just rhetorical. It is an imperative of the German situation. [end recording]

At the end of his address, Karl Carstens talked about the German people's need for unity. He recalled that his country favors disarmament and a balance of power between East and West. Finally, he invited President Houphouet-Boigny to make an official visit to the FRG.

LIBERIA

Soviet, Ghanaian Envoys Reportedly Leave

AB241236 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1200 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] The two foreign diplomats who were declared persona non grata by the Liberian Government on Tuesday have reportedly left the country. According to the government-owned *NEW LIBERIAN* newspaper, Ambassador Anatoliy Ulanov of the Soviet Union has been traveling out of Liberia since 19 November. The Soviet ambassador and the charge d'affaires at the Ghana Embassy were given 48 hours to pack and leave because of what a Foreign Ministry spokesman termed as acts incompatible with their diplomatic status.

The *DAILY OBSERVER* newspaper today reported that Mr Peter Sackey, the expelled Ghanaian charge d'affaires, has described his expulsion from Liberia as unfortunate. Mr Sackey was quoted as saying that he was not surprised by these allegations and has regretted the Liberian Government's move. He did not elaborate.

Journalists Visit Coup Plotters in Monrovia

AB242135 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 2118 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] In Monrovia several Liberian journalists visited NSA [National Security Agency] today where several government officials and Army personnel are being held for their alleged involvement in an attempt to topple the government of the People's Redemption Council. According to the LIBERIAN NEWS AGENCY, the visit of the journalists was intended to dismiss the fears that those accused of the plot were being mistreated and intimidated to confess their guilt. The accused reportedly said they were testifying at will. They said their investigation is being handled professionally. Those interviewed today by the team of journalists were Moses Dukwu, Johnny Herring, Kalanco Nur, Victor Togba, and Paul Toweh. Others are Harry Yuan and William Bely.

Monrovia Reports New Developments in Coup Plot

AB231625 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] As investigation continues into the alleged plot to overthrow the PRC [People's Redemption Council] government, the Executive Mansion has come up with new developments. One of the accused, Private Paul Wangi Toweh of the Armed Forces of Liberia, has reported further on the plan which allegedly involves the former commanding general, Thomas G. Quiwonkpa. The Executive Mansion release quotes Pvt Toweh as saying that the recent killings in Yekepa were directly related to the plan which implicates several officials of government, public corporations, as well as Army officers. The report revealed that the former commanding general, who was in Nimba County, had instructed Major Kolonko Luo to launch the coup in Monrovia while he, Quiwonkpa, would operate in the Nimba County area. The report by Pvt Toweh further reveals that all of those mentioned in the statement by the head of state on the issue were aware of the event which was to include preparations in Monrovia and Nimba County for the execution of [words indistinct].

According to Pvt Toweh's statement, Colonel John Moore, one of the accused, accompanied the former commanding general to Nimba County from where they were to strike on Sunday, 20 November. Pvt Toweh revealed further that Mr Quiwonkpa's brother, John Quiwonkpa, and his friend, Victor Tokpah, were in knowledge of the plot. The planned coup should have taken place in Monrovia but because of the lack of ammunition, the former commanding general decided to change tactics and begin in Nimba County, according to Pvt Toweh's statement. He said

he was instructed by Colonel Nuah to proceed to the barracks and arrange for a deal among the boys to go to Nimba, but, said the release, Mr Toweh said: I told him to wait for me. I left him at my home and went to find out for myself on the situation.

The Executive Mansion further revealed that he rode to Nimba. Pvt Toweh said he met one Lieutenant Tokpa, a former driver of Mr Quiwonkpa. Pvt Toweh further revealed that Lt Tokpa said he had talked with the former commanding general to disregard the idea, but he refused, saying the government had tempted him for a long time and he was fed up.

Reacting to the recent report, the head of state, Commander in Chief [CIC] Dr Samuel Kanyon Doe, has ordered that all those still at large should report to the nearest police station for transportation to Monrovia for the investigation. He has meanwhile ordered the joint security forces at all borders not to allow any Liberian to leave the country before being thoroughly searched and their identity established. The CIC said the government expects everyone to cooperate with the law enforcement agencies to apprehend those implicated in the alleged plot. Dr Doe has meanwhile declared that innocent citizens from Nimba County should not be molested or disturbed as government is dealing only with those suspected of being invloved in the present situation.

MALI

'Arafat Envoy Arrives With Message for Traore

JN241750 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1616 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] Malian Vice President Ahmed Baba Diarra received in Bamako today Salman al-Hirfi, the envoy of the commander in chief [Yasir 'Arafat] and official in charge of African affairs in the PLO's Political Department. Al-Hirfi gave the Malian vice president a message from the brother commander in chief to Malian President Brigadier General Moussa Traore. The message dealt with the current situation the Palestinian revolution is witnessing in Lebanon following the Syrian-Libyan aggression against the PLO and the Palestinian refugee camps in northern Lebanon.

Diarra affirmed the firm and absolute support of the Malian people, party, and government for the Palestinian people's struggle, led by the PLO under Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. He said: We oppose any external interference in the PLO's affairs under any circumstances. He added: If the creation of Israel 35 years ago was a crime, then what Syria is doing in terms of attempting to liquidate the revolution and the PLO is an even bigger crime.

Diarra asked the envoy of the commander in chief to send the greetings of the Malian people, party, and government, headed by Brig Gen Moussa Traore, to Brother Abu 'Ammar, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, and to all the steadfast fighters of the Palestinian revolution who are confronting the aggression. The meeting was attended by the Malian foreign minister, the presidential diplomatic adviser, and Brother Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahim, the PLO representative in Mali.

NIGER

FRG's Carstens Arrives, Met by Kountche

AB242035 Niamey Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Professor Karl Carstens, president of the Federal Republic of Germany, and his wife, Mrs Veronic Carstens, arrived in Niamey this afternoon. Our honorable guests were met at the airport by the head of state, General Seyni Kountche, and his wife, Mrs Mintou Kountche.

French Presidential Adviser Arrives on Brief Visit

AB222015 Paris AFP in English 1641 GMT 22 Nov 83

[Text] Niamey, Nov 22 (AFP) Guy Penne, French President Francois Mitterrand's advisor on African affairs, arrived here today from the Central African Republic for a brief visit to Niger. Mr Penne, who is accompanied by Jean Ausseil, director of African affairs in the French Ministry, was to meet this afternoon with Niger's head of state General Seyni Kountche.

In Bangui earlier today he met the Central African Republic's military ruler General Andre Kolingba and told reporters France had decided to continue aid to the country.

Mr Penne is due to leave here tomorrow for Ndjamena where he is to meet President Hissein Habre of Chad.

NIGERIA

AFP: Cameroon Soldiers Take Over 4 Villages

AB241832 Paris AFP in English 1825 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] Lagos, Nov 24 (AFP) — Soldiers from Cameroon have invaded and taken over at least four villages in Nigeria's southeastern Cross River State on the border between the two countries' borders, reports reaching here said today. The state's government-owned newspaper *THE CHRONICLE*, which said the Cameroonian "gendarmies" entered Nigerian territory on November 10, named the villages as Atabong, Abana, Abana Ntuen and Afaha Ntuen, all in the Affiat Mbo area.

The paper reported that the soldiers mounted machine guns at strategic points in the area, sacked the Nigerian police unit there and proceeded to "loot property and assault women". Prior to the November 10 "invasion" it said, the gendarmes had seized fishing boats owned by Nigerians, "kidnapping as well as killing some of the citizens".

The Federal Government-owned *DAILY TIMES* and the independent *CONCORD* newspaper quoted Cross River State Assembly majority leader Effiong Solomon Atte as calling on Federal President Shehu Shagari to act to halt the Cameroonian soldiers' "disgraceful and inhuman actions". Chief Atte called

for the president to open an inquiry to ascertain the number of kidnapped Nigerians and effect their release.

In 1980, five Nigerian soldiers were killed by Cameroonian gendarmes in a border clash.

Ekwueme Receives Bulgarian Chief of Staff 22 Nov
AB222310 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 22 Nov 83

[Text] The vice president, Dr Alex Ekwueme, has reiterated the determination of the Federal Government to strengthen the bonds of cordial relations existing between Nigeria and Bulgaria. Dr Ekwueme stated this in Lagos today at State House, Ribadu Road when he received the first deputy minister of defense and chief of the General Staff of the Bulgarian People's Army, Colonel General Atanas Semerdzhiev, currently on an official visit to Nigeria. The visit is a return for the one paid to Bulgaria last year by the Nigerian chief of Army staff, Lieutenant General M.I. Wushishi. The vice president recalled that there had been exchanges of visits between the two countries at the highest level and welcomed the initiative of the present Bulgarian delegation which has proposed areas of further cooperation between the two armies.

Earlier, General Semerdzhiev had conveyed the warm greetings of the president and prime minister of Bulgaria to President Shehu Shagari and the vice president. He praised Nigeria's role in world affairs especially in the liberation struggle in southern Africa. General Semerdzhiev also stated that the government and people of Bulgaria admired Nigeria's important contributions to the Nonaligned Movement.

Closer Cooperation Urged
AB241228 Lagos NAN in English 1203 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] Lieutenant General Mohammed Wushishi, last night in Lagos called for closer cooperation between Nigerian and Bulgarian armies. Lt Gen Wushishi made the remarks at a dinner in honour of visiting Bulgarian First Deputy Minister of Defense Colonel General Atanas Semerdzhiev, who is also the chief of general staff of the Bulgarian People's Army.

Lt Gen Wushishi said that the relationship between Nigeria and Bulgaria dated back to the civil war days when according to the general, "Bulgaria gave an unalloyed support in defending Nigeria's territorial integrity by supplying essential military hardware to our troops."

Lt Gen Wushishi said that Nigeria would always be grateful to Bulgaria for coming to its aid in the darkest period of the country's history, "when our so-called friends refused to help in spite of our preparedness to pay for the military hardware." He pointed out that Bulgaria was one of the largest suppliers of military equipment to Nigeria and expressed the hope that the door for fuller cooperation of the armies of both countries would be further opened.

The visiting Bulgarian Army chief, Col Gen Semerdzhiev, praised Nigeria for effectively defending its territorial integrity during the war years and said that Bulgaria was ever ready to cooperate fully with Nigeria in several areas.

The visiting Army chief was treated to cultural dances by an Itsekiri dance group from Bendel and the Atilogun dancers from Anambra. Present at the dinner included the minister of internal affairs, Dr Ibrahim Tahir, and all the service chiefs of the Nigerian Army.

SENEGAL

USSR Supreme Soviet Delegation Ends Visit
AB231145 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 22 Nov 83

[Text] The delegation of USSR Supreme Soviet members who have been in our country since 17 November at the invitation of their Senegalese counterparts leaves this evening. During their stay, the Soviet legislators were received by President Abdou Diouf and by National Assembly President Habib Thiam. The legislators also took the opportunity during their stay in our country to visit the factory of decorative arts at Thies and the fishing villages of Kayar and the Island of Gore.

In the joint communique issued this afternoon, the Soviet delegation praised the efforts of the Senegalese people aimed at consolidating national independence and the country's economic development. The two delegations said that an atmosphere of trust is necessary to consolidate political independence and to ensure fruitful cooperation. The two parties added that it is necessary to establish more just international relations. In this regard, the Senegalese delegation stressed that it is necessary for developed countries to bring aid in the form of food and hydrologic equipment to the destitute people in the Sahel. They also called for the strict and immediate implementation of the UN resolution on Namibia and reiterated their support for the struggle of the people of Azania to eliminate the shameful apartheid system.

On the OAU, they called for an end to all the maneuvers aimed at dividing the organization. They also expressed their support for the just struggle of the Palestinian people under the PLO, which is their sole legitimate representative. The Soviet delegation thanked the Senegalese authorities for the welcome accorded it during its visit to Senegal.

[Begin recording — speaker unidentified] The delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet expressed to His Excellency Abdou Diouf, president of the Republic of Senegal; to His Excellency Habib Thiam, speaker of the National Assembly; to all the members of parliament; and to the Senegalese people its gratitude for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded it. The delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet presented to His Excellency Habib Thiam an invitation to make an official, friendly visit to the Soviet Union at the head of a Senegalese parliamentary delegation. The speaker of the Senegalese National Assembly accepted the invitation with pleasure, the date of which will be fixed later through diplomatic channels.

Signed in Dakar on 22 November 1983. For the Soviet parliamentary delegation, His Excellency [name indistinct], deputy chairman of the Presidium, USSR Supreme Soviet; for the Senegalese parliamentary delegation, His Excellency Mamou Ousmane Ba, deputy speaker of the Senegalese National Assembly. [end recording]

TOGO

Upper Voltan Delegation Visits; Diallo Comments

AB222045 Lome Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 22 Nov 83

[Text] General Gnassingbe Eyadema, founding chairman of the Togolese People's Rally [RPT] and president of the republic, received a nine-member Upper Voltan delegation at the Presidential Palace. The delegation, led by Hama Arba Diallo, Upper Volta's minister of foreign affairs, came to deliver a message from Chairman Thomas Sankara to General Eyadema. At the end of their talks, which lasted nearly 1 hour, the leader of the delegation spoke about cooperation between Togo and Upper Volta and about the Upper Voltan revolution.

[Begin recording] [Diallo] I came to deliver a message of friendship from Chairman Sankara to the founding chairman of the RPT, President Gnassingbe Eyadema. This message is one of friendship and fraternity, for you must know that Chairman Sankara has only the highest feelings of friendship and fraternity for President Eyadema.

Comrade Sankara has had a number of opportunities to insist that what is happening in Upper Volta — the actions being taken in Upper Volta — are aimed at freeing our people from the chains which bind us to a past we want to quickly overcome. Chairman Sankara's love for the Upper Voltan people is the same as that he has for the Togolese people; therefore, no action taken by Upper Volta at any level in the interest of any people can be considered a hostile act by the Upper Voltan people or regime. There is no shadow cast over relations between our two countries. There are no problems between Upper Volta and Togo; quite the contrary. We came to brief President Eyadema on what we are doing in Upper Volta to consolidate the Upper Voltan revolution. That revolution represents — in the eyes of the Upper Voltan people — a phenomenon that is not only new, but one which has allowed Upper Volta to satisfy the desire of its people for a regime with which they can identify.

I also hope that you, men and women of Togo, will join us, for the Upper Voltan revolution is not meant only for the Upper Voltans. Our revolution seeks to be a mirror into which anyone may gaze. We are inviting the men and women of Togo to come experience and taste — together with their brothers and sisters in Upper Volta — what we are trying to do at the village, arrondissement, department, and provincial levels. We think that this is very important. Our mission and audience with President Eyadema had but one purpose: to tell him that Upper Volta hopes to strengthen its ties of friendship and cooperation with Togo, and that we have no problems at all with Togo. Indeed, we are searching for ways and means through which the Togolese and Upper Voltan peoples, who share a common history, may once again share their common aspirations for a better future. That was the message I conveyed to President Eyadema.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr Minister, our two heads of state met in Paris during the last Franco-African summit in Vittel, and they met with their colleagues of the Entente Council and with President Sekou Toure of Guinea. At the level of our subregion, we have several economic cooperation and security organizations: the ECOWAS, the Entente Council, and the Nonaggression and Defense Aid Agreement [ANAD]. What is Upper Volta's new philosophy to strengthen its cooperation links in the west African subregion?

[Diallo] Since 4 August Upper Volta has played a very active role in all these institutions, be it in the Entente Council, the West African Economic Community [CEAO], the ECOWAS, the ANAD, or the West African Monetary Union [UMOA]. We consider the existing bodies to be privileged forums for dialogue and for the exchange of views. It is the lot of each of us to work in such a way that these bodies can be used to pool our positive actions. Therefore, we will use the organizations in this context. Moreover, this is the reason Chairman Sankara participated in the CAR summit and in the CEAO, ANAD, and UMOA summits held in Niamey. Each time we have the opportunity we want the voice of Upper Volta to be heard. We do not say that this voice will be similar to what has been heard up to now. We will strive to make what we transmit heard both inside and outside the country, because we do not consider the liberation of Africa the task of only one country or one people. The liberation of Africa is a process for which many African leaders, beginning with President Eyadema, have had to play very active and positive roles. It is the turn of those of us who have come to power — not too late but not too early either — to strive to uphold the torch of African liberation, which has been kept ablaze so far, for its total success. We are engaged in this process and we intend to make Upper Volta's voice heard. We intend to make what we consider the legitimate aspirations of the Upper Voltan people, and of Upper Volta, Africa, and the Third World in general, heard in the work toward equality and progress so that together we can build a better world.

[Reporter] Upper Volta and Ghana recently organized military maneuvers in which Togolese officers acted as observers. Has Togo's participation in these military maneuvers as an observer been appreciated?

[Diallo] We were very happy about this participation. Moreover, we would like the Togolese Army (?and our Army) to work together at another level. But we think these maneuvers carried out between the Upper Voltan and Ghanaian troops are of a nature that demonstrate that the two armies, when faced by a common external enemy, can combine efforts so that when the need arises, they can efficiently face the common aggressor, even though they may have different backgrounds.

We also think that the presence of troops or officers of friendly countries as observers is normal because as members of the ANAD, and this has been said several times, it is quite normal that we invite each other to witness such military maneuvers or indeed to participate in them, because the common enemy is not in the region: The common enemy will come and comes from

outside our area. Consequently, these exercises should in our opinion be intensified to keep our armies from being passive and indifferent, so that they consider themmselves armies that are mobilized at all times to face the common aggressor.

It is in this spirit that we feel such exercises must continue. Moreover, we will soon have the chance to organize joint maneuvers between the Togolese and Upper Voltan troops. In the same way, we hope that the Niger and Upper Voltan troops or the Malian and Upper Voltan troops will one day be able to meet and undertake joint actions aimed at preparing us to face a common enemy. I must also add that there were observers from Ivory Coast. We can also envision joint maneuvers between Ivorian and Upper Volta troops, because we think this is a step in the direction of solidarity — solidarity and cooperation in times of peace but also solidarity and cooperation in moments of difficulties in order to face aggressors that could one day want to control our countries. We in Upper Volta have decided to defend our country to the last man, because the saying fatherland or death, which we use here, means that one should fight for one's country if one loves it. In order to fight for one's country one must be prepared. It is in this spirit that the maneuvers were organized. It is also in this spirit that we intend in the near future to organize similar maneuvers with other countries.

[Reporter] One last question please. We would like you to review the general situation in Upper Volta now that 4 months have passed since the start of the 4 August revolution.

[Diallo] I think that since 4 August we have tried to establish the various organs required by the revolution. We have set up Revolutionary Defense Committees in the villages, arrondissements, prefectures, provinces. We think that these organs, which in our view are very important, will serve as the privileged framework through which both political discussions and discussions on actions to be taken at the socioeconomic level as well as defense training for times of need will take place. These bodies are being set up in a purely democratic context. The people concerned have organized themselves at the village level or in the urban centers at the area level. They elect their officers in total liberty, meet, ask questions, and offer solutions to individual problems. [end recording]

The Upper Voltan delegation was led to the presidential office by Mr Akakpo-Ahianyo, the minister foreign affairs and cooperation.

Eyadema Receives Delegation

AB241023 Lome Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] Yesterday an Upper Voltan delegation was received by President Eyadema. The delegation, which was led by Upper Voltan Minister of Foreign Affairs Arba Diallo, brought a message of friendship and brotherhood from President Thomas Sankara to his brother and friend General Eyadema. The purpose of the visit was also to strengthen the relations of cooperation and friendship between Upper Volta and Togo.

This wish of Upper Volta has not taken long to materialize. In fact, the two countries began negotiations this morning at the party house in Lome on a draft agreement establishing a joint commission on cooperation between Togo and Upper Volta. On this occasion, Mr Diallo reiterated his country's desire to strengthen the relations of friendship and cooperation with Togo in order to enable the two peoples to fraternize more. The Upper Voltan minister also took the opportunity to announce that his country will open a consulate in Lome very soon. This is to mark the good relations existing between our two countries, he said.

For his part, Akakpo-Ahianyo, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, held the view that the meeting in Lome demonstrated the desire of Togo and Gen Eyadema, and of Upper Volta and Captain Sankara, to examine ways and means of strengthening the cooperation existing already between our two countries. The Togolese minister also made it a point to observe that there were no differences between Ouagadougou and Lome.

ANGOLA

Statement Rejects Multinational Force Proposal

EA241018 Dar es Salaam External Service in English 1600 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] Angola has accused imperialist forces of trying to use the Commonwealth summit meeting in New Delhi, India to achieve international recognition of their absurd position in relation to the presence of Cuban troops in Angola. A statement issued today by the Angolan Embassy in Dar es Salaam said some countries were preparing to prevent at the summit meeting a proposal of creating a multinational force to replace Cuban troops in Angola. [sentence as heard] The statement said the maneuvers were aimed at forcing the Cuban withdrawal from Angola in order to destroy the Angolan revolution and overthrow the legitimate government of that country led by the MPLA-Labor Party. The (?idea of) linking the presence of Cuban troops in Angola was first made by the U.S. and later supported by the racist regime of South Africa and is aimed at hampering the Namibian independence process. The linkage issue has been rejected by the international community. The statement reaffirmed the stance of the People's Republic of Angola that the presence of Cuban troops in its territory is a bilateral question between the Governments of Angola and Cuba and that the Cuban soliders are in Angola at the request of the government in Luanda. It further said that the troop withdrawal will be studied as soon as the factors which forced the Peoples' Republic of Angola to solicit the Cuban military support disappear.

Luanda: UNITA Retreating in Moxico Province

MB230958 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] Another 86 UNITA counterrevolutionaries have been killed by the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] in operations carried out in Moxico Province in recent days. In Alto Zambezi municipality, FAPLA killed 40 bandits, and in the areas of (Chafinda), Leua, and Lucusse another 28 UNITA counterrevolutionaries were killed, a number of others wounded and captured, and a quantity of weapons and military equipment seized. Following an operation in Cazombo municipality, FAPLA killed 18 counterrevolutionaries and captured 14 light weapons, blankets, and a number of documents. According to information from Moxico military sources, the enemy is in flight in that province, retreating toward a passage along the Cuando and Cuanavale Rivers and also toward Malanje and Bie Provinces.

Besides these FAPLA actions, many peasants who were forcefully inducted into UNITA's criminal ranks continue to flee the hardships in the bush — where they lived a life of death, destruction, and theft — and to give themselves up to Angolan authorities. (Manuel Dungo), a 30-year-old peasant, fled from the bush where he had been taken by UNITA armed gangsters and given military training to fight the Angolan people. He brought with him his weapon, one RPG-7 with five shells, and said that he would now make use of it to fight the UNITA bandits who had forcefully taken him to the bush, where he had a difficult time. Questioned on the activity of counterrevolutionary gangsters, (Manuel Dungo) said that he could not adapt himself to the daily life of crime, theft, and destruction lived by the UNITA bandits and that was why he had run away.

LESOTHO

Economic Agreement Reached With Romania

MB232000 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] The Government of Lesotho and Romania have entered into an agreement on economic and technical cooperation in the fields of agriculture, the food industry, and forestry. This has been announced in the latest edition of the trade promotion unit of the Lesotho Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Tourism. In terms of the agreement, Romania will assist Lesotho in the improvement of crop husbandry, relating mainly to maize, wheat, and sunflower production, the development of poultry production and processing, the development of the forestry industry, and the creation of mechanization centers in Lesotho to service the agricultural sector. Romania will also make available to Lesotho credit for the procurement of goods and services from Romania, and credit granted by Romania will be guaranteed by the Central Bank of Lesotho. The agreement will be valid for an initial period of 10 years.

MOZAMBIQUE

Machel Greets Albanian, PDRY National Days

MB241856 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] President Samora Machel has expressed Mozambique's desire to deepen friendly relations and cooperation with Albania. In a message to the first secretary of the Albanian Workers Party, Enver Hoxha, on the occasion of Albania's national day, President Samora highlighted the common struggle against humiliation and exploitation. Albania was annexed by Italy in 1939 and became independent after the second world war. President Samora has also sent a message of congratulations to the president of Democratic Yemen, 'Ali Nasir Muhammad al-Hasani, on the occasion of Democratic Yemen's national day. The president praised the people of Democratic Yemen for the successes achieved in ensuring social welfare in the fight against inperialism. He expressed Mozambique's desire to strengthen friendship and cooperation with Yemen.

SOUTH AFRICA

Attack on Botswana Border Under Investigation

MB231930 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] The Department of Foreign Affairs and Information in Pretoria has confirmed that the Botswana authorities have asked the South African Government to investigate the use of two South African-registered vehicles by a group of unidentified

armed men who fired on a Botswana Defense Force patrol last week. A spokeswoman said that the matter was being investigated by the department. The cars involved in the border shooting incident were found to have been bought in Pretoria only 3 days before the incident by two white men who gave false names and addresses.

SWAZILAND

Envoys Meet Queen; Israeli President To Visit

MB231810 Mbabane Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Excerpts] The Israeli state president, Herzog, is to visit Swaziland sometime next year. This was disclosed this afternoon by the Israeli ambassador to Swaziland, Mr Meir Joffe, when presenting his letters of credence to Her Majesty the Queen Mother and Regent Ntombi at Kanyamzane royal kraal, near Malkerns. The Israeli envoy assured the queen mother that he will do his utmost to strengthen the warm relationship already existing between the two countries. He said he will always inform and advise the government on Swaziland's national development needs and explore possiblilities to extend cooperation in all possible fields. Other envoys who presented their credentials were the British high commissioner to Swaziland, Mr Martin Reith, and the Swedish ambassador to the country, Mr Bo Kalfhors. Present at the presentation ceremony were the authorized person, Prince Sosiza, members of Liqoqo, and members of the royal family.

ZAMBIA

TIMES Urges UK, Canada To Leave Contact Group

AB240950 Paris AFP in English 0919 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] Lusaka, Nov 24 (AFP) — The semi-official *TIMES OF ZAMBIA* newspaper today urged Britain and Canada, two members of the Western Contact Group on Namibia who are in New Delhi for the Commonwealth summit, to quit the group in order to isolate the United States and South Africa. In an editorial, the *TIMES* called for the Commonwealth conference to press the West to achieve a Namibian settlement with South Africa.

The paper noted that while the Contact Group of the United States, Britain, France, West Germany and Canada was formed to implement UN Security Council Resolution 435 on Namibian independence, this objective had been frustrated by Pretoria's insistence, backed by Washington, to link independence to the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola.

"Because America has decided to be on the side of the racists, the Contact Group is now being used by the two countries to delay Namibia's freedom," the paper said. The editorial went on: "To really show their solidarity with their brothers and sisters in the Commonwealth, Canada and Britain, who are sitting in New Delhi as 'club' members, should quit the useless Contact Group." The *TIMES OF ZAMBIA* also urged France and West Germany to leave the Contact Group.

ZIMBABWE

Mugabe Says ZANU To Propose One-Party State

MB231455 Harare THE HERALD in English 19 Nov 83 p 1

[Text] ZANU (PF) will propose a resolution for the creation of a one-party state in Zimbabwe at its national congress next year, the Prime Minister, Cde Mugabe, has said. Interviewed recently by the director of the centre of African studies at Maputo's Eduardo Mondlane University and *TEMPO* magazine journalist Alves Gomes, Cde Mugabe said that after the congress there would be a national election "which we will win, of course, and then work towards a one-party state."

But before the creation of a one-party state, "we will have to discuss with our ZAPU allies. ZAPU has agreed with us on a one-party state, but it wants to be properly accommodated and we will look at how best to accommodate them — without, of course, accepting its exaggerated demands for equality because it is a minority party."

Before the congress was held there would be the women's congress followed by one for the youth. "We want to check on the efficiency of organisation, We have got to be systematic, have the party well ordered and members registered.

Asked what problems the party faced, Cde Mugabe said that after the war many contradictions began to emerge, such as love for wealth, and certain leaders wanting property and becoming bourgeois. "I have denounced some of the leaders for wanting to step in the shoes of the settler bourgeois. That...has to be corrected."

The central committee of ZANU (PF) had agreed that no leader should own property. "We consider that they must not have more than (?100) acres — which is generous. We will not allow them to have 1,000 or 2,000 acres."

Cde Mugabe said this was the stage when new contradictions arose within the national movement and among the people of Zimbabwe. "But we are prepared to meet these challenges — that people must toe the correct ideological line. Those of them who want to go into the same side with the settlers — fine. They will suffer the same course in due course."

HERALD Carries Mugabe's Charges Against Muzorewa

MB231525 Harare THE HERALD in English 19 Nov 83 p 1

[Text] The detained leader of the UANC [United African National Council], Bishop Muzorewa, made links with Zaire aimed at organising "greater activity" against the Government, Cde Mugabe said. He told the interviewers it would be remembered that South Africa continued to give material support to the Muzorewa regime right up to the end.

After the elections it had been reported to him that Bishop Muzorewa had sent 5,000 of his former auxiliaries to South

Africa for military training. He accused Bishop Muzorewa of planning to overthrow the Government and "he came to me to deny it in 1980, but as time went on his actions became really suspect."

"We watched him travel frequently to Zaire and the United States holding talks with them to organise greater activity against my Government, linking up with Israel. Mobutu Seso Seko of Zaire has established diplomatic relations with Israel, contrary to the OAU posture, and Bishop Muzorewa, in accordance with his strategy, went to Israel.

In the meantime, Cde Mugabe said, auxiliaries have been infiltrating into Zimbabwe, showing that the UANC was working alongside former ZIPRA dissidents to destabilise the region. "There have been secret meetings, sometimes with ZAPU and sometimes on their own, and we have been monitoring some of the discussions before we decided that the bishop should be arrested."

Mangwende Urges Military Confrontation With RSA

MB250620 Harare Voice of Namibia in English 1900 GMT 21 Nov 83

[Station commentary]

[Excerpt] The minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Comrade Witness Mangwende, yesterday said that [words indistinct] to achieve Namibia's independence, first South Africa's racist regime must be forced militarily out of both Angola and Namibia. The minister, who was talking in the Zimbabwe television program "The Nation" said that it is not [word indistinct] to continue talking any longer. He said and we quote: We must physically face the enemy as happened in Zimbabwe. The time is fast approaching where we must [words indistinct]. The minister also said that the international community cannot afford to be held to ransom by South Africa. In the end, the international community must take up arms and force South Africa out of Namibia.

Mangwende Cited on Closed Maputo Rail Link

MB231016 Johannesburg THE STAR in English 22 Nov 83 p 2

[Text] Harare — The railway line from Zimbabwe to Maputo through Chicualacuala is virtually unusable because of repeated sabotage in Mozambique, an official source said yesterday. Asked to elaborate on the statement last night, the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Witness Mangwende, said the railway line was being blown up two or three times a week. "We have stopped using it," he said, "Because of the continual attacks by MNR [Mozambique National Resistance] rebels."

Mr Mangwende accused South Africa of backing the MNR rebels as part of its destabilisation of frontline states. He said the attacks on the railway line were part of the programme by South Africa directed at economic targets. Zimbabwe forces are helping to protect lines of communication to the port of Beira, but are not involved in protection of the Maputo/Zimbabwe line.